

## Mahameed faces travel curbs

TEL AVIV (AP) — A parliament committee on Monday voted to impose travel restrictions on an Israeli Arab legislator for urging Palestinians to resist Israeli occupation "by every means" possible. The remark that Hashem Mahameed of the communist Hadash Party made to Palestinians in the occupied Gaza two weeks ago was interpreted by many Jewish lawmakers as a call to arms. Attorney General Yosef Harish has ordered police to investigate Mr. Mahameed for allegedly inciting violence. The travel limitations, if upheld by the 120-seat parliament plenum on Wednesday, could block Mr. Mahameed from travelling to certain areas, such as Gaza. Parliament's house committee voted 8-7 to impose the restrictions on Mr. Mahameed for three months despite his insistence that he was misunderstood and opposed "a military solution," a parliament statement said. Mr. Mahameed said the committee's decision was racist and "directed against a member of parliament who is an Arab and nothing else. I've said again and again that this way of punishment would not shut my mouth. I am going to say again and again that I would never respect any people under oppression and occupation that do not resist. I believe that my people, the Palestinian people, have the right to resist with all means."

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## New GCC chief urges Arab unity

ABU DHABI (AP) — The incoming secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Sheikh Fahim Ben Sultan Al Qassimi, urged the Arab World to close ranks or face problems amid the growing trade and political blocs in the world. Mr. Qassimi told Abu Dhabi television that Arab unity was necessary "because the coming century will have no mercy for weaklings and will only be fit for powerful countries and large blocs."

## Locust swarms invade S. Arabia

JEDDAH (AP) — Millions of mature desert locusts from East Africa have invaded Saudi Arabia since mid-November and even denser swarms are expected over the next two months, officials said Monday. "The first invasion took place on Nov. 17 and the second on Dec. 27," Yacoub Ashour, the head of the Jeddah-based locust research and combat station, told the Associated Press. "The invasion of locusts is continuing and is expected to intensify over the coming two months."

## Ship leaves Iraq

BAHRAIN (AP) — A Maltese-flagged merchant ship, crippled in the Gulf war, has left Iraq, the first vessel to sail from there since the cease-fire nearly two years ago, shipping sources said Monday. The source said the Sea Music left Umm Al Qasr over the weekend, and headed south. It docked Monday at Dubai where it will put up for sale. A U.S. navy spokesman said there was no indication the Sea Music was carrying cargo, which would be in violation of U.N. trade sanctions imposed against Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

## Court charges 13 in Foda murder

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's supreme state security court Monday charged 13 Muslim extremist suspects with the killing of secular writer Faraj Foda and said they faced a maximum penalty of death, court sources said. They said eight of the 13, members of Al Gama'at al Islamiya (Islamic Group) movement, were still at large. They were also accused of forging legal papers and possessing arms. Mr. Foda, gunned down in Cairo last June, was a prominent secularist who denounced Muslim fundamentalists in his writings.

## Bahrain names assembly official

MANAMA (R) — The ruler of Bahrain Monday chose the secretary-general for the new consultative council that will begin meeting this month. The official Gulf News Agency said the Emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, named Mohammad Hassan Al Fadhl to the position. The wholly appointed council of 30 men, whose names were announced on 27, will be asked to advise the government on draft laws proposed by the cabinet.

## Violence erupts on Bangladesh border

JESSORE, Bangladesh (R) — At least two people were killed and scores injured when Bangladesh security forces fired on 50,000 Muslims trying to march to India in protest at the building of a temple on the site of a razed mosque, witnesses said. Police and members of the Bangladesh rifles opened fire after the marchers broke through a security barrier on the outskirts of Jessore, about 16 kilometres from the Indian border in northern Bangladesh, they said.

## Budget

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# Jordan Times

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## Ghali to send new envoy to Mideast

TEL AVIV (AP) — A second U.N. envoy will visit Israel and Lebanon to try to reach agreement allowing aid to reach 415 Palestinian evacuees stuck in Lebanon, the government said Monday. Last week, U.N. Under-Secretary-General James Jonah visited the region but failed to convince Israel to take the evacuees back or allow medical and food supplies to reach them. Lebanon also refuses to allow the aid through its territory. The latest visit was agreed upon in a telephone call Monday between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. Mr. Rabin's office said. According to a statement, special envoy Chinnmaya Gharekhan, U.N. representative to multilateral Mideast peace negotiations, will arrive in Israel "in the next few days" after being briefed by Dr. Ghali. The U.N. Security Council has condemned the expulsion as a violation of international law and demanded that Israel let the men return. But it failed on Thursday to draft a second more strongly worded statement.

## Deputies heap criticism and demands on Cabinet

By Ayman Al Safadi  
and Masa Aloul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Despite the generally positive bill of health the Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament gave the draft budget for 1993, the government Monday received little praise from deputies who showered it with demands and criticism of its economic performance and plans.

Politics and electioneering dominated the majority of the speeches delivered by 21 deputies at the second day of what is expected to be a four-day debate of the draft budget.

The government was criticised for its management of poverty, and unemployment, bureaucratic inefficiency, taxes system, monetary policy, centralisation of economic opportunities and investment and implementation of "International Monetary Fund (IMF)-designed economic programmes."

And it was asked by deputies to provide roads, schools, hospitals, telecommunication systems and other infrastructure in the country's cities, towns, villages and refugee camps.

"Widespread" poverty was recurrent theme in the speeches of most deputies who took the floor Monday, demanding a more effective government action to alleviate the deteriorating living standards of limited-income citizens.

Expressing support for the recommendation of the Finance Committee to raise by JD 20 the salaries of government employees, most deputies said the government's economic policy was placing a greater burden on low-income groups.

They said citizens were being overtaxed at a time when prices had gone up, and inflation had risen and salaries remained insufficient to meet the rising cost of living.

"These difficult conditions which the great majority of (the people) are facing require the government to seriously and responsibly deal with the situation," Zaqra Deputy Bassam Haddadin said, announcing his rejection of the draft budget.

Irbid Deputy Husni Al Shiyab pointed to the grave discrepancies in living conditions in various parts of the Kingdom, blaming increased poverty in areas outside the central areas on the concentration of investments in Amman.

While the government boasted the 11 per cent growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1992 as an achievement, many deputies saw it as evidence of the heavy taxation it imposes on citizens.

Many deputies said the growth was made possible through increased customs and taxes and not through improved productivity, which they said pointed to a default in the overall economic policy. Most of them demanded that the government introduce new taxes.

Government measures to fight unemployment also came under fire from deputies who alleged unfair practices in distributing job opportunities among citizens and governorates.

Deputies charged that nepotism was widespread in a bureaucratic system which they said was plagued by inefficiency, administrative paralysis and abuse of office.

The chairman of the House's Judiciary Committee, Saleem Al See, said for excerpts from deputies' speeches

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## Fateh, Hamas agree to cooperate in intifada and continue dialogue

By Mariam M. Shadin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Reconciliation talks between Fateh and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, concluded in Khartoum Monday with an initial agreement to cooperate on inter-Palestinian issues and the formation of joint committees despite continued disagreement over Hamas representation in the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) refusal to order the Palestinian negotiating team to withdraw from peace talks with Israel.

"We had six points on our agenda and we came up with three committees to address our points of common interest," Ibrahim Ghosheh told the Jordan Times during a telephone conversation after the talks concluded Monday.

"We agreed to cooperate on the issue of expellees, inter-Palestinian politics (specifically Hamas-Fateh) and intifada politics," said Mr. Ghosheh, adding that Fateh-Hamas committees

had been formed to deal with the three issues.

But Fateh and Hamas failed to come to an agreement on Hamas representation in the PNC. "Our position has not changed and neither has that of Fateh," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Hamas, an organisation officially formed in 1988, is not a member of the PNC. About 18 months ago negotiations began between the Islamic group and the PLO on Hamas joining the PNC.

The PLO has offered Hamas 18 seats on the 483-member Council. Hamas wants popular elections or 40 per cent of the seats.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat attended the three days of talks in Khartoum. Fateh Central Committee member Saleem Zannoun led the Fateh delegation while Damascus-based Musa Abu Marzook headed the Hamas group. Sudan's Hassan Turabi chaired the talks.

Mr. Ghosheh, who is the Amman-based spokesman for Hamas, said that while at the round of talks "numbers (of PNC seats) were not mentioned we

asking for democratic representation."

But disagreement on the issue of representation did not seem to mar the talks, which Mr. Ghosheh described as "honest" and "straight forward."

"We talked about the expellees, our joining the PNC, coordination on intifada-related issues, national unity, the struggle to end Israeli occupation and the continuation of the Hamas-Fateh dialogue," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Coordination between the two groups, he said, was a "sort of breakthrough." Supporters of Fateh and Hamas fought fierce battles in Gaza and Nabulus last summer and several people had died as a result of the fighting.

Hamas's willingness to continue the military struggle against Israel has won support among many Palestinians who see no change in Israeli policies towards the people living under its occupation.

Hamas's popularity reached a peak in the weeks that followed

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## Islamic Action Front leader urges independents to retract resignation

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The leader of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Dr. Ishaq Farhan, yesterday called on independent members of his group to retract their resignations in a bid to close Islamist ranks and maintain their unity.

Seventeen independent Islamists resigned from IAF in protest a day after they failed to win a proportionate strength in the 120-member consultative assembly elections two weeks ago.

"What is hoped now, after the contacts we made, is that the resignations would be withdrawn," Dr. Farhan, said in a three-page statement distributed to the press Monday.

Dr. Farhan's call on the independents to return to the ranks of the front, however, was also accompanied by a determined message that the IAF would continue its operation with or without them and that the "doors will remain open to those who chose to leave and those who chose to enter."

Dr. Farhan's statement comes four days ahead of the elections for a 17-member executive committee, a speaker for the consultative council as well as a president and two deputies of the

IAF which are scheduled for Friday.

A crack appeared in the front when the results of the consultative assembly's elections indicated a Muslim Brotherhood control of the majority of the seats despite an earlier understanding that independents would be given at least a third.

The independents immediately lashed out at the movement accusing it of using the IAF as a front for its political activities, while using the presence of independents to add legitimacy to the front's claims that it is a common ground for all Islamists regardless of their affiliations.

Stressing that the IAF accepts as members all Islamists who believe in its objectives and regardless of their past affiliations, Dr. Farhan was quick to add that the front, therefore, will not allow for the formation of an internal bloc of members under the banner of independents.

"When an individual becomes a member of the front, he becomes equal to all other members in duties and rights... therefore the legal path for entering the party or leaving it is taken through an individual decision and not as a group," Dr. Farhan said in Monday's statement.

He also maintained that the

independents won 40 per cent of the 120 seats, a much larger estimate the independents' 15 per cent, but did not specify how he had reached this figure.

Coupled with unprecedented criticism of the independents, Dr. Farhan seemed to fend off criticism of the Brotherhood implying that if there was any wrongdoing from the movement's members, who are also members of the IAF, then it was as a result "of individual decisions which were not dictated by any side."

Despite his call for withdrawing the resignations, Dr. Farhan's statement appeared to indicate that earlier optimism of an impending solution to the crisis was not totally justified.

A source close to IAF decision-making circles told the Jordan Times that if the resigned independents decide to stay some will be elected to the 17-member executive committee.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source said that efforts were underway to pave the road for the election of at least 10 independents to the executive committee. He also indicated that a strong campaign was underway among Brotherhood

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Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip and (right) Palestinians expelled to South Lebanon offer prayers (AFP)



## 'Collaborator' suspected of Shin Bet killing

CAIRO (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday the Israeli government could extract itself from a crisis over the expulsion of 415 Palestinians and rescue Middle East peace talks if the Israeli supreme court ruled the action illegal.

Nabil Sha'ath, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters: "They have always claimed that Israel was a law-abiding country... their first way out is to let the courts do it."

He recalled that Israel's justice minister had argued last August that expulsions were against international law. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin subsequently cancelled expulsion orders issued

## Shaath sees Israel's way out of expulsion deadlock

against 11 Palestinians by the hardline Likud government he had just defeated in general elections.

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who discussed the crisis with Egyptian officials Sunday, told reporters that expulsions were "generally speaking contrary to our values and ideas" but argued: "sometimes we do not have any other choice." (see page 2).

The Israeli government accuses the Palestinians of supporting violent groups, including Hamas, which opposes peace talks and claimed responsibility for kidnapping and killing an Israeli border policeman in December.

Dr. Sha'ath, who has consis-

tently supported taking part in peace talks and has planned much of the Palestinians' negotiating strategy, said the expulsions crisis had to be solved.

"The first requirement now is really a remedial one, which is to return the (expellees) and to allow a cooling-down process, to really sit and think together with the Israelis and the American sponsors and, hopefully, the Russians and the Europeans on what needs to be done next," he said.

Dr. Sha'ath said Israel should lift its ban on negotiating directly with the PLO and the sponsoring powers — the United States and Russia — should clarify the

(Continued on page 5)

## Rabin preparing Golan pullout plan — Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A contingency plan being prepared by Israel would pull back troops about 10 kilometres on the occupied Golan Heights as a step towards peace with Syria, opposition legislators said Monday.

Legislators Benjamin Netanyahu of the Likud Party and Moshe Peled of Tzomet claimed the partial withdrawal was part of a blueprint for eventually returning all the Heights.

The right-wing Likud and Tzomet parties oppose any withdrawal from the Golan, which Israel declared "annexed" in 1981. In Middle East peace talks in Washington, Syria has demanded Israel return all the Heights in exchange for peace.

The contingency plan is "a clear signal by Israel that it is ready to make comprehensive concessions," Mr. Netanyahu said during a tour of the Golan Monday.

"We are talking about a framework in which Israel will give up all of the Golan Heights, possibly in stages," he told Israel Radio.

Mr. Peled, who accompanied Mr. Netanyahu, said a line of hills up to 10 kilometres west of current Israeli positions was cited in the plan. The Golan spans about 21 kilometres along that ridge line.

The plan calls for U.N. buffer forces to be deployed initially in areas vacated by the Israelis, the

radio quoted the lawmakers as saying.

Defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami refused comment Monday on whether a contingency plan was being prepared.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said he would agree to partial withdrawal of forces in exchange for peace. But Mr. Rabin said Israel would not discuss details until Syria spells out what it means by peace. Israel wants open borders and full diplomatic relations.

There have been reports in recent weeks that Israel and Syrian negotiators are meeting secretly in Europe while the peace talks are in recess.

Israel's chief negotiator, Itamar Rabinovich, last week denied the reports, but said he was optimistic a peace agreement with Syria could be signed this year.

## Iran: Talks futile

Iran told Syria Monday that Arabs would achieve nothing from peace talks with Israel.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, whose mission to Tehran includes talks on mending Iran's ties with Gulf Arab states and Egypt, handed President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani a message from Syrian

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## Somali factions meet for 'informal' talks

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Informal peace talks between 14 Somali groups opened in the Ethiopian capital under U.N. auspices Monday and immediately ran into procedural problems.

An alliance of four groups boycotted the opening session, attended by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in protest at his failure to invite three other allied groups.

The alliance, dominated by the Darod group of clans in southern Somalia, later said it would take part and U.N. officials said one of the three extra groups could come.

But the incident showed the kind of controversy that could disrupt the two days of talks, the largest gathering of Somali warlords since the country began to disintegrate two years ago.

Deliberately to avoid procedural quarrels of this kind, Dr. Ghali has called the talks informal and set no agenda.

"Fragmentation and fighting in Somalia have made dialogue nearly impossible," the secretary-general told the opening session. "It is crucial that this occasion be used to exchange ideas and promote mutual understanding."

Some factions have asked the United Nations to extend the talks but Dr. Ghali told Reuters they could not afford to.

He urged the groups to participate in a peace process without preconditions and said in the end only Somalis could solve the crisis

in Somalia.

The U.N. presence at the negotiations provoked a deadly demonstration over the status of Ethiopia's breakaway northernmost province, Eritrea. Witnesses said at least four people were fatally shot and scores wounded when Ethiopian forces fired on students protesting efforts to send U.N. observers to an April referendum on independence in Eritrea.

At the conference, President Meles Zenawi called on the clan leaders to implement a ceasefire, establish a national police force, disarm gunmen and establish a national government.

Dr. Ghali also urged conference participants to end the anarchy in their famine-wracked nation.

"It is time to recreate the Somali state so that it may fulfill its role in the community of nations," the U.N. chief said.

But the prospect of anything emerging from the U.N.-sponsored conference talks was unclear.

In Somalia, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) pulled its last three foreign workers out of the southern port of Kismayu following the weekend murder of an agency employee (see page 2).

The talks in Addis Ababa were being mediated by Dr. Ghali, whose organisation will be responsible for policing Somalia

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## Clinton accepts Yeltsin's summit invitation

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — President-elect Bill Clinton accepted Russian President Boris Yeltsin's summit invitation, but said such a meeting is not likely to be held until he and Congress get started on America's problems.

Mr. Clinton, speaking after Mr. Yeltsin and President George Bush signed the START-II treaty in Moscow Sunday, said the Russian leader had asked for a meeting "pretty soon."

But the president-elect, talking to reporters as he prepared to fly here from Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, after a vacation, reiterated that he was determined to focus first on the U.S. economy and other domestic issues.

He said that although no decision had been made on when to have a summit with Mr. Yeltsin, "I do look forward to meeting with him early."

He praised Mr. Yeltsin as genuinely committed to moving Russia towards a free and more prosperous economy and said the United States has a big stake in Mr. Yeltsin's success. But Mr. Clinton said a summit date would "depend in part on the timetable of the Congress and the work that I have to do here on the problems in America."

Congress will meet in Washington Tuesday (see page 8).

Mr. Clinton said Mr. Yeltsin extended the invitation in a letter in which he also thanked the

president-elect for his support of the reform process. Mr. Clinton said he "appreciated the comments that both he (Yeltsin) and President Bush have made, facilitating this transition."

Relations with Israel also are of crucial importance to the United States, Mr. Clinton said, adding that "the peace process is very important to me."

Mr. Clinton said he would discuss the date for meeting with Mr. Rabin, but added that he has "a good relationship with him going, so I would expect that we would get together pretty soon."

Mr. Clinton will continue preparing for his move to Washington and consider appointments for sub-cabinet positions, said spokesman Jeff Eiler. The New

York Times reported that Princeton University economist Alan Blinder is Mr. Clinton's choice for one of three seats on his Council of Economic Advisers.

On Friday, Mr. Clinton meets with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in Austin, Texas.

On Somalia, Mr. Clinton reiterated his support for the rescue mission that sent U.S. troops and said he hoped their "main mission" could be completed by the time he takes office Jan. 20.

But Mr. Clinton said "we're doing what we have to do" and that he could not try to hold Mr. Bush to a commitment to have over by Jan. 20.



## UNICEF pulls staff out of Kismayu

MOGADISHU (R) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has pulled its foreign staff out of the southern Somali port of Kismayu despite the presence there of hundreds of American and Belgian troops.

The move followed the killing Saturday night of UNICEF's officer in charge in Kismayu, Briton Sean Devereux, by a lone Somali gunman 30 metres from the agency's residence.

The withdrawal reflected the relief community's concern that their security was still not guaranteed despite the presence of more than 27,000 U.S. and other foreign troops in Somalia to protect the famine relief operations.

UNICEF statement said the agency welcomed the arrival of the American-led force "and its efforts to provide security for the relief effort."

But it said the shooting of Mr. Devereux, the first foreigner killed intentionally in Somalia since the task force arrived, had set back plans to resettle more than 50,000 displaced Somalis who have fled to Kismayu from the Lower Juba Valley.

"UNICEF remains committed to reaching civilians caught in war. However, the assurances for the security of UNICEF and NGO (non-governmental organisation) staff remain a precondition to the provision of assistance," the statement said.

It said four other expatriate UNICEF staff in Kismayu had been evacuated but that Somali employees would stay on to provide essential relief to mothers and children.

"The UNICEF statement did not mention the nationalities of

the staff who were being withdrawn.

No motive had been established for Mr. Devereux's death and the identity of the gunman was not known, UNICEF said.

But the statement indicated that Mr. Devereux had been singled out for murder. Two Somali UNICEF staff who were with Mr. Devereux when the gunman struck were unhurt, the statement said.

The Briton had spoken up last month about an orgy of clan killings in Kismayu on the eve of the start of Operation Restore Hope and extortion of UNICEF and other aid agencies by locally-hired guards and drivers.

The UNICEF statement said a report earlier Sunday that Mr. Devereux had been killed by his own security guards "was unfounded and untrue."

U.S. and Belgian troops secured Kismayu, 380 kilometres south of Mogadishu, on Dec. 20, 11 days after the first U.S. Marines stormed ashore in the Somali capital.

Troops have spread out since Dec. 9 to eight regional centres in central and southern Somalia's famine belt, from where they will escort food convoys into the countryside.

A number of relief agencies say that while more food is reaching the starving because of the troops, their own safety has become worse.

One senior aid agency official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters he was having trouble convincing expatriates on his staff to stay in Somalia and that relations between the relief community and the military were tense.



A young Somali boy brandishes a knife during a protest march in Mogadishu Sunday (AFP photo)

"They (the task force) have disarmed us and not replaced it with anything," the official said, adding that it had only been a matter of time before someone was killed.

Kismayu, Mogadishu and the southern town of Bardere are the blackspots of insecurity, with looting, muggings and car hijackings still commonplace, according to aid workers.

Task force commanders say it is not their job to disarm Somalia, awash with weapons used during two years of clan war and anarchy which created the country's apocalyptic famine.

In Kismayu, troops have ordered weapons off the streets and say local warlord Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess has agreed to withdraw his fighters and their "Mad Max" gunwagons from the town.

But Marine Colonel Fred Peck,

a U.S. military spokesman, said last week that a scheme for the voluntary surrender of arms in Kismayu had drawn only a modest response.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wants the United States to expand its mission to full disarmament, saying anything less could plunge Somalia back into carnage and chaos when the American troops pull out.

He had a taste of Somalia mayhem Sunday when a stone-throwing mob besieged the Mogadishu headquarters of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), preventing him from visiting the mission and its staff.

Dr. Ghali was in Somalia on a brief visit before opening informal two-day peace talks among 14 Somali clan factions and splinter groups. The meeting opens in Addis Ababa Monday.

## Ex-Marxists face stiff challenge in Yemen

SANAA (R) — The party that ruled South Yemen for more than two decades says it has shaken off its Marxist ideology for the sake of a united, democratic Yemen, but its former foes are still suspicious of its communist past.

Political analysts say Yemen's Socialist Party (YSP), which now shares power in a united Yemen, will have to fend for itself in a political free-for-all ahead of general elections promised in April.

South Yemen's leaders, many of them former fervent leftists, now face the challenge of managing reform without losing their grip on power.

"Our party has dropped much of its ideology, renounced totalitarianism both in ideology and politics and accepted plurality of thoughts...socialism is not being raised now and is not included in our present political programme," said Jarrallah Omar, a member of the YSP political bureau.

"Our slogan now is democracy comes first and our main aim is to modernise the country, create

and find new resources and build the state of law, justice and equality," he said.

Analysts say the YSP, which has 50 per cent of the cabinet posts, is likely to do poorly in the polls.

Over 40 political parties now operate in Yemen vying for power in a democratic climate rare in other Arab countries.

YSP leaders said it was not the death of world communism that changed the party, but rather the need for North and South Yemen to unite.

"When the wind of change blew, our party had already taken the initiative to concentrate on three major issues: The reunification of Yemen, multi-party rule and a comprehensive reform and criticism campaign of the party's past political and social applications," Mr. Omar said in an interview.

In May 1990, the YSP and the People's General Congress (PGC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, which ruled conservative North Yemen, joined forces and merged the country.

Some YSP foes are sceptical of its ideological changes.

"They are advocating capitalism now. If this is true why don't they apply it in the south?" asked Abdul Rahman Al-Jefri, leader of the pro-Saudi League of the Sons of Yemen, an old foe of the YSP.

Mr. Jafari, a wealthy businessman from Aden, had his property confiscated and his party banned by the YSP in what used to be the Arab World's ultra-leftist state.

Many South Yemenis say they are relieved to see the end of a Marxist rule that turned the once bustling port of Aden into a neglected backwater after independence from Britain in 1967.

But they say that promises of the return of business and property confiscated under socialism have not been fulfilled.

There is general consensus that Ali Salem Al-Baidh, the head of the YSP who now serves as Yemen's vice-president, would remain in the same post in any future government to preserve the delicate political balance since the merger.

Mr. Jafari said some YSP people were against any radical change while others saw a shift in ideology as a must.

But Mr. Omar said the party was not divided.

"We have had long discussions about democracy, a factor that eased Yemen's unification and saved the party from division. The choice of unity and democracy have been the party's life buoy," he said.

Other opposition parties said they had forgotten the YSP's past and they were ready to deal with the YSP in the new democratic climate.

Mr. Omar said that as a sign of change, the YSP now has members who are Marxists along with social democrats. "We accept even Islamists if they agree to our programme," he said.

Criticising the party's old ideology, Mr. Omar said: "We used to raise the slogan of fair distribution of the wealth even before such wealth existed. We raised the slogan of internationalism before uniting our country."

## Egypt urges Israel to reconsider expulsions

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has urged Israel to reconsider the expulsion of 415 Palestinians trapped in South Lebanon but Israel said the decision had been necessary to preserve the Middle East peace process.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters after talks with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin: "This question is really harmful to the peace process and that is why we again urge the Israeli government to reconsider."

Mr. Musa said Egypt had some ideas to ease the crisis over the expulsions, which is threatening to cause the collapse of peace talks between Israel, the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. He declined to give details.

The 415 men are camped on a freezing hillside without adequate food or medical care. Lebanon will not allow them to cross its army's lines and will not let the Red Cross take them supplies, arguing Israel caused the problem and must solve it.

Israel says it will only allow the Red Cross to reach the men if Lebanon does so too.

Mr. Beilin gave little indication that Israel was ready to back down. He said expulsions were "generally speaking contrary to our values and ideas" but added: "Sometimes we do not have any other choice."

"We knew that it was a very difficult decision to take but in order to keep the peace process

and in order to prevent those who are fighting against peace from achieving any victories we had to take this decision," he said.

Israel accuses the Palestinians of supporting Hamas, which opposes peace talks and claimed responsibility for kidnapping and killing an Israel border policeman in December.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has been directing Palestinian negotiations, sees Hamas as a dangerous rival feeding on the growing Palestinian frustration at lack of progress in the peace talks.

But it cannot accept mass expulsions, even of its rivals, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is currently in Khartoum attempting to reach some form of accommodation with Hamas.

Mr. Beilin said upon arrival here that his talks would centre on bilateral relations, the peace process as well as expulsion crisis.

Mr. Beilin was also scheduled to meet with Osama Al-Baz, head of President Hosni Mubarak's political office.

Egypt and Israel signed the first and only peace treaty between an Arab country and the Jewish state in 1979. Relations remain cool between them because Egypt condemns Israeli actions with Palestinians and other Arab countries.

Israel would like a more active normalisation process with Egypt.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Syrian rabbi confirms visa 'delays'

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria's chief rabbi said Sunday "administrative problems" have delayed exit permits for Jews seeking to leave the country, but denied that a ban on travel for members of his community has been reimposed. The rabbi, Ibrahim Hanna, said the "specialised Syrian authorities have told us that the delay in issuing exit permits is due to administrative problems and not a cancellation of president Hafez Al-Assad's decision to lift travel restrictions on Jews." Rabbi Hanna spoke to reporters at his home in Damascus, but gave no indication as to how soon the obstacles would be sorted out. He said since the travel restrictions were lifted in April, 2400 Jews have left. He said 1,450 remain in Syria, but did not say how many of those have applied for exit permits. The permits are a requirement for all Syrians wishing to travel.

#### UNESCO chief puts off Israel visit

PARIS (R) — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) chief Federico Mayor has cancelled a trip to Israel, and a report said his absence at a seminar there was meant as a protest against the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories. A UNESCO spokesman said Monday Mr. Mayor had been due to attend a seminar on science and education in developing countries opening Sunday. He said Mr. Mayor, who is apparently in Spain, postponed his visit to Israel to an unfixed date and sent his deputy to represent him. The spokesman had no explanation for the change of schedule. But Spanish national radio said Mr. Mayor cancelled his visit in a deliberate snub to protest against Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians stranded in southern Lebanon.

#### Gunmen attack Copts in Upper Egypt, kill 1

ASSIUT (R) — Gunmen suspected to be Muslim militants attacked Christian Copts in Upper Egypt Monday, killing one and wounding another in two separate assaults, security sources said. In the first attack, gunmen with automatic rifles shot Ismail Ibrahim Hanna, 65, a village official in Izbat Hanna near the town of Dayrut, a militant stronghold about 315 kilometres south of Cairo, the sources said. Mr. Hanna was hit in the head and died at hospital. Minutes later in Dayrut, pharmacy owner Izzat Daniel Mikar, 48, was shot in the face with a revolver. The attackers also tossed a bomb into the pharmacy but it did not explode. Both groups of attackers escaped, the sources said. On Sunday night a bomb shattered windows in a Coptic church in the village of Dayrut Al-Sherif. The village, with four churches and a monastery, has 45,000 people, 20 per cent of them Coptic Christians. Security sources said they believed the attackers were from Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiya (Islamic Group), the main Muslim militant movement in Egypt. Islamic group militants attacked Copts, security officials and tourists in Upper Egypt last year, in an attempt to challenge the government which they seek to replace with an Islamic caliphate.

#### Israeli army chief visits U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Barak flew Sunday for a 10-day visit to the United States. The visit, during which Gen. Barak will meet General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be aimed at improving strategic cooperation between the two countries, the radio said. It comes as Israel weathers international criticism for its Dec. 17 expulsion for up to two years of 415 Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to South Lebanon. Israeli media reports have long said Gen. Barak was a main proponent of temporary expulsions as likely to raise less international outrage than Israel's past practice of permanently expelling Palestinians.

#### Russian minister cuts short Gulf tour

ABU DHABI (AP) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev Monday cut short a landmark trip to the Gulf and flew home after the death of his father, sources in his entourage said. But a 20-man delegation of senior military officials stayed behind to pursue military cooperation talks with United Arab Emirates (UAE) officials. The team will fly to Kuwait Tuesday as had been scheduled, said the sources. The official Emirates News Agency WAM reported Mr. Grachev's abrupt departure, but made no reference to the death of his father, Sergei. Grachev appointed General Viktor Prudnikov as head of the delegation, the Russian sources added.

## Israeli police battle protesters

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police fired rubber bullets and tear-gas Sunday at thousands of ultra-orthodox Jews demonstrating against the archaeological excavation of an ancient burial cave.

Protests began at 3 a.m. and caused traffic jams in Jerusalem throughout the day.

The unrest continued into the night in spite of a ruling by Israel's high court that excavation stop for 10 days until a hearing could be held on the matter.

The protesters were angry that the Israel antiquities authority had removed bones from a seventh century burial cave in the Mamilla neighbourhood just outside the walls of the Old City. Protesters said the bones were of Jews but archaeologists said it was a Christian grave.

The three-year excavation is clearing the way for a luxury apartment complex and shopping mall.

Border police fired rubber bullets and tear-gas at throngs of black-frocked protesters who threw cement blocks, stones and bottles in the ultra-orthodox MEA Shearim neighbourhood of occupied Jerusalem. Some called the police Nazis.

Arabs were attacked by the crowds in separate incidents. In the first, a car driven by an Arab was overturned, in the second an ultra-orthodox crowd attacked an Arab pedestrian.

Both men escaped unharmed. Twelve protesters were arrested. Six policemen and a boy were injured by stones thrown by the demonstrators but a police spokesman said rubber bullets should not have been fired at the demonstrators: "It was a mistake in judgment by the commander there."

A television reporter asked Police Commissioner Yaakov Turner why there were so few arrests.

## Demjanjuk family hopeful in 1993

CLEVELAND (AP) — The family of John Demjanjuk began 1993 with renewed hope of finally proving the former autoworker is a victim of mistaken identity, and not the former Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible."

"We're always optimistic that in the end we will achieve our goal, but I think this will be the year we finally get some justice for our family," John Demjanjuk Jr. said in an interview last week.

The family hopes new evidence from the former Soviet Union and other developments last year will convince the supreme court of Israel that the wrong man was convicted and sentenced to hang.

Demjanjuk, now 72, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 on charges he lied about his Nazi past. He was extradited to Israel in 1986 and convicted of crimes

against humanity after a lengthy trial featuring testimony from five survivors of the Treblinka camp in Poland.

He is appealing the death sentence handed down in 1988 by a three-judge Israeli panel.

A guard known as Ivan the Terrible ran the gas chambers and mutilated prisoners, killing some 850,000 people in 1942 and 1943. Both the U.S. Justice Department and Israeli prosecutors made the case that Demjanjuk and Ivan of Treblinka are the same man.

Demjanjuk, a Ukraine native, says he was never at Treblinka and that he was held as a German prisoner of war.

Last year, documents obtained from the former Soviet Union provided evidence that the notorious Ivan had the last name of

Marchenko. Israel's supreme court accepted the evidence but has not yet ruled on Demjanjuk's appeal.

Last June, a U.S. federal appeals court in Cincinnati reopened Demjanjuk's extradition case, saying it may have been based on erroneous information.

A special master has been taking evidence in Nashville, Tennessee, about the Justice Department's role in the case and likely will report to the appeals court early this year.

The family speaks regularly by telephone with Demjanjuk, who remains in prison in Israel.

"He sounds very good, and he remains in good health and good spirits, although he is frustrated to still be away from his family," Demjanjuk Jr. said.

## Arab governments go to war against fundamentalists

By John Baggaley  
Reuters

ALGIERS — Arab governments led by Algeria and Egypt are working on a plan to crush Muslim fundamentalists they blame for hundreds of killings, sabotage attacks and assaults on tourists.

Interior ministers from North Africa to the Gulf will spend the next three days trying to set up cross-border coordination against extremism which they blame mainly on the fundamentalist government of Iran and Sudan.

Some of them see Muslim extremism as the Arab World's gravest threat. The meeting will focus on a plan for inter-Arab cooperation to crush what Algeria, Cairo and Tunis say is an international terrorist movement inspired by Iran's mullahs.

"Those who think that what is happening in Algeria and Egypt, and to a lesser degree in

Tunisia, are internal problems, are gravely mistaken," Algeria's Interior Minister Mohammed Hardi said on arrival in Tunis for the talks.

Algeria has been driven close to civil war by the conflict between the authorities and Muslim fundamentalists in which more than 210 members of its security forces were killed in 1992.

Mr. Hardi called Algeria's experience a "baptism of fire" and said if Algeria and Egypt succumbed the whole Arab World "sooner or later will sink."

He said the extremist "gangrene" had penetrated Saudi Arabian society and aimed to take control of Islam's holy sites.

Algeria's government newspaper Al-Moudjahid said at the weekend that the meeting was also expected to condemn countries which supported "terrorist" groups and warned them to respect other nations' sovereignty and security.

Egypt has also announced that it is inviting government ministers, scholars and religious leaders from dozens of Muslim countries to a conference in Cairo on Jan. 19 to find "ways to stand up to extremist currents."

The conference is expected to denounce terrorism and extremism as a distortion of Islamic and issue a Cairo declaration on "the forbearance of Islam and moderation of its thought," according to Egypt's Minister of Religious Affairs Mohammad Mahjoub.

Mr. Mahjoub's Algerian counterpart Sassi Lamouri visited Cairo last year for talks on "a joint plan to preserve our society and shelter the Arab-Islamic World from the Iranian assault."

The mosque has long been a source of recruitment for the fundamentalists, and diplomats say Algeria and Egypt have been quietly cooperating for months against what Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

terms Iran's "aggression and blackmail."

One of Algeria's first moves after cancelling a general election which the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win, was to get rid of FIS imams who fuelled extremist fervour and encouraged militants to join the FIS. Cairo too is now putting all mosques under government control.

The bloodshed in North Africa has sunk some of the inter-Arab differences highlighted during the Gulf war.

The problem of fundamentalism is seen as too pressing. It has also sparked alarm in Europe where countries such as France, with a community of over one million North Africans, fear its impact on their own Muslim communities.

Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia have all promised no let-up in the battle. "There will be no retreat in the fierce and firm confrontation against the terrorists," Egypt's Interior

Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa said as he left for Tunisia.

More than 70 people died in religious attacks in Egypt last year and its \$3 billion tourism industry has been hit by heavy cancellations after a British tourist was killed.

Tunis has asked the United Nations "to cooperate sincerely in order to isolate the extremist and terrorist groups sheltering behind religion."

In Algeria, some 28 men, including a Frenchman sentenced last week, have been condemned to death by ordinary courts in less than a year for "terrorism." Special courts are about to start work, endowed with tougher powers to order execution.

On Sunday, a security source told Reuters that the threat was far from over. "Two groups of Algerians are now in training camps near the Sudanese capital Khartoum, along with Egyptian and Yemeni fundamentalists," he said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Michael Valliant  
18:30 La Famille Ramdani  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Documentary  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Perfect Strangers  
21:30 Made in Heaven  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Prime Suspect

#### PRAYER TIMES

06:09 Fajr  
06:31 Sunrise  
11:40 Dhuhr  
14:25 Asr  
16:09 Maghrib  
18:11 Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh, Tel. 810748  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632795  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Solle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622626  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630511, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638526

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and where there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 3/12

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 9/17  
Dead Sea 0/13  
Jordan Valley 8/13

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 3, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 64 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Wael Khartabli 615648  
Dr. Waleed Kalwani 610441  
Dr. Rabb Zaytoon 888685  
Dr. Anafat Al Ashhab 683989  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 780336  
Al Aqaba pharmacy 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shimciani pharmacy 637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672  
Najib pharmacy 847632

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 77121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 603800  
Price Complaints 651176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone Information

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816  
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhan, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 6647114  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 853945  
Al-Musabbir Hospital 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666171/73  
Al-Hadid, Abdali 664646  
Italian, Al-Mahajoun 77101/3

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

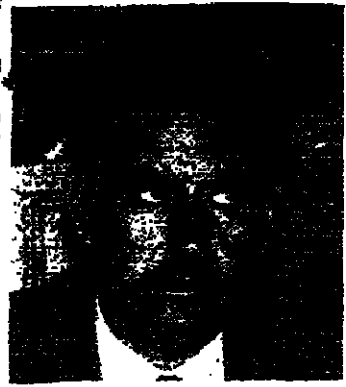
(Terminal 1)  
06:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
07:30 Dhahran (RJ)  
08:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:15 Am



## Deputies criticise government and voice their demands

The following are extracts from speeches made by Lower House of Parliament members Monday on the fiscal budget and their constituencies' needs:

Deputy Salameh Ghweiri Zarqa



Noting that the rate of poverty was around 33 per cent in Jordan

deputy Ghweiri demanded that the government impose no further taxes. To deal with poverty, he said that the National Aid Fund (NAF) should be increased and more assistance should reach needy families in all governorates. Mr. Ghweiri also called on the government to back national industry which can absorb workers and find new markets in the Gulf for exporting domestic goods. He said that Jordan should approach the United Nations in order to open the way for exports to Iraq or help the country re-open its markets in the Gulf region. Mr. Ghweiri joined other deputies in demanding a raise in the salaries of the government employees.

Husni Al Shiyab Irbid



Deputy Shiyab criticised the government's economic and monetary policies, saying the government's heavy reliance on indirect taxes and various tariffs to generate revenues would discourage investment and increase

poverty pockets in Jordan. He said that monetary policies which maintain a high interest rate on credit facilities would lead investors to keep their capitals in banks instead of investing in productive projects. The Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) rediscount rate is very high compared to that of commercial banks, thus causing the liquidity surplus to move between banks instead of investing it in economically-feasible projects, he added. He said the Jordanian annual income per capita was dropping significantly. Since 1988 it was JD 717 while in 1991 it was JD 530 according to a report released by the CBJ in 1991, he said. Mr. Shiyab called on the government to give civil servants a JD 20 raise in accordance with a recommendation by the financial committee. This raise will not be a handout from the government because it is a legitimate right for government employees, he said.

Deputy Mohammad Alawneh Irbid



Deputy and former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Alawneh

focused on the farming sector and said that although the public looks at agricultural products as national output it is in fact mostly grown on imported seeds, fertilizers and other farm requirements. He demanded better utilization of southern lands and water resources such as Al-Disi basin. He said that building dams should be given higher priorities to irrigate badia and other semi-dry regions. In addition, he gave numerical explanations to show that by planting olive trees and other types of fruits, the kingdom can improve by far its agriculture production.

Youssef Al Athem Maan



Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Athem presented several questions to the government as to why the government stopped operating Al Hijaz railroad. "Is there any intention to cancel this railroad to which Muslim women have donated their jewellery?"

he asked. He also asked the government why it bans Jordanians from fishing in the Gulf of Aqaba to meet the needs of their families and feed the Jordanian people and why there was delay in carrying out the Maan Sport city project. The deputy said Maan Governorate, which covers half of Jordan's area, has the kingdom's most important tourist attractions such as the Nabatean city of Petra, the warm beaches in Aqaba and several desert fortresses. The governorate also contains several mining, industrial and agricultural projects, he said. Still he added, Maan is still deprived of a university and does not get its fair share from the National Aid Fund (NAF) despite the rising number of the unemployed and poor in the governorate.

Mr. Athem said his demands for the governorate are not a pre-election campaign because he was not running in the next parliamentary elections for health reasons.

## Jordan urges Red Cross to send evictees aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday again demanded that the world community should force Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions and repatriate evictees exiled to Lebanese territory.

Adel Irsheid director general of the Foreign Ministry Palestinian Affairs department stressed that further pressure should be applied on Israel to implement resolution 799. Speaking at a meeting with the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Michel Ducreaux, Mr. Irsheid said that Israel should offer the ICRC facilities in order to reach the evictees and offer them due services. Noting that the evictees health conditions were deteriorating as they enter their third week in exile, Mr. Irsheid said that Palestinian evictees should be receiving immediate medical care. He said that the ICRC should pursue its attempts to ensure Israel's consent towards providing the evictees with humanitarian services.

Mr. Irsheid said that Israel should be held by the world community as the sole responsible party for this humanitarian and political crisis.

He pointed to Israel's continued brutal measures being imposed on the Arab population in the occupied lands and said that the Israelis continue to shell Arab homes killing innocent civilians.

The ICRC assumes an important humanitarian role and enjoys world wide respect and support except in Israel which is disregarding all world organisations. Israel's deportation was widely condemned by various nations. Representatives of various unions in Jordan have organised sit-ins and other forms of protest outside the U.N. offices.

## JPA optimistic about overtime allowance

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) announced Monday that it is looking into all means of obtaining a 30 per cent overtime allowance for the employees of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, but it is optimistic that the rise will be awarded.

JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah said that the JPA board will support Petra's overtime demands which are in line with an increase awarded to the Jordan Radio and Television corporation. Petra Sunday held a six-hour strike in support of their demands which Mr. Qudah said should work in favour of the journalists. The JPA requested the work stoppage. The work stoppage executed on Sunday between 10 and four o'clock was described by Petra Director Khaled Mahadin as a show of discontent rather than a strike on the part of the employees for not receiving equal treatment from the government for their newswork.

Petra employees have now sent a memorandum to Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif reiterating their demand for the allowance, and they have also sent a cable to the Lower House of Parliament urging its members to support their demand.

Mr. Mahadin had said that he received encouraging signals from the government that the Petra staff demands will be met. He noted that the government had received at least three memoranda from the Petra staff demanding more pay.

## Income tax collection up by 18.5 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department collected a total of JD 110,796,113 from taxpayers in 1992, an increase of 18.5 per cent from 1991 collections. At a press conference Monday held by Department Director Mansour Haddadin who said that the 1993 forecast was at JD 120 million.

Giving a breakdown of the collections, Mr. Haddadin said that JD 74,631,165 was collected from shareholding companies compared to JD 64,346,799 in the previous year. Individual tax payers paid JD 24,800,380 in 1992 over JD 19,550,623 in 1991. Private sector employees paid a total of JD 8,707,322 while JD 7,381,323 in 1991, while government civil servants paid JD 2,657,246 compared to JD 2,168,639 in 1991.

In reference to the department's new plans Mr. Haddadin said that during 1993 the department will open a new branch in western Amman and another in the northern sector of the city to aid the collection of taxes. Furthermore, the Income Tax Department intends to simplify procedures to help tax payers pay by instalment, Mr. Haddadin said.

Mr. Haddadin urged taxpayers to present income details so that taxes may be accurately calculated. He said that if payments are made quickly people may apply for a six per cent discount in January, four per cent in February and two per cent in March. He warned that the deadline for payment is April 30, 1993 after which fines at the rate of two per cent per month will be imposed on the taxpayers.

Mr. Haddadin said that taxpayers call the department on telephone number: 685613 for any queries and information concerning the payment of dues.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### IDB approves loans worth JD 1.538m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has approved 22 loans worth JD 1,538 million to finance industrial, touristic and services projects for 1993. Sixteen loans worth JD 1,103m were extended to existing industrial ventures. In 1992, the IDB extended 203 loans worth JD 31,474 million to various Jordanian projects.

#### ACC extends JD 23m to agricultural projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has extended JD 23 million to 8,000 agricultural projects in 1992, thus benefiting 10,000 farmers and members of cooperative societies around the Kingdom, according to ACC Director Mansour Ben Tarif. Mr. Tarif said most of the loans were granted to small farmers in accordance with the government's directives. Projects aiming to reclaim and develop agricultural lands received 36 per cent of the ACC's loans. Mr. Ben Tarif said, adding that projects aiming to develop the Kingdom's livestock wealth received 32 per cent of the loans. The rest of the loans were granted to help farmers develop their irrigation techniques and purchase new machinery.

#### Jordanian and Sudanese news agencies agree to cooperate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Sudanese News Agency, Suna, concluded Monday an agreement on cooperation between the two agencies in journalistic and technical fields. The agreement, which was signed by Petra Director General Khaled Mahadin and Suna Director Mustafa Abdul Rahman, provides for exchanging news and photos. It also provides for exchanging expertise and visits between journalists in Jordan and Sudan.

#### WHO organises painting competition

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced Monday that it is organising a painting contest for school children aged between eight and 18 years. The topic of the paintings is ways of preventing car accidents. WHO has invited students in the Mediterranean region to take part in the contest and submit their paintings to WHO representatives or the Ministry of Health in these countries. Paintings should be on 35X250 centimetre paper, the organisation announced.

#### Electricity authority to offer tenders for national power grid links

KARAK (Petra) — Director General of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Mohammad Saeed Arsfah said all tenders for linking the Jordan countryside with the national power grid will be offered in the first half of 1993. Mr. Arsfah said during a tour of the Karak Governorate that all villages and population gatherings included in the project will be electrified before the end of the year. The JEA chief called on the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to complete drawing organisational plans for these villages and gatherings to facilitate work in the project.

#### Jordanian elected head of Arab Geologist Federation

BAGHDAD (Petra) — President of the Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA) Issa Abu Taha has been elected president of the Arab Geologists Federation. At the conclusion of its meeting in Baghdad last week, the federation also elected secretary general of the Libyan geologists association as vice-president and head of the Iraqi association as secretary general of the federation's executive bureau.

Mohammad Al Dardour Ramtha



Deputy Dardour said that the overflow of the national revenue and the increase of taxes are burdens to be borne by the citizens. He said that the growth that referred to by the Minister of Finance is not real growth. There is no achievement in self-reliance when imports are far more than exports, he said. Moreover, the government's constant resort to debt is increasing when it should be reduced to give opportunities to the national self-reliance. The deputy also said that it is necessary to increase the salaries of the employees and change the criteria for employment in the civil service commission and re-defining it on more fair basis.

Deputy Abdul Rahim Ekour Irbid



greater number of people, it should reduce the number of state-owned cars given to senior officials and support the Audit Bureau in its drive to control government spendings. Rationalising consumption he called on the government to put an end to a situation where a senior official has several cars under his disposal serving his household's purposes rather than public interests. With reference to the minister of finance's statement that for the first time the Kingdom has been able to cover current expenditure with the domestic revenues, Mr. Ekour said that every one would be glad to see Jordan self-sufficient but the domestic revenues the minister referred to came from the pockets of limited income groups in the form of additional taxes. For this reason, he said, the government should raise wages of workers while encouraging the public to rationalise consumption.

Deputy Isa Al Raimouny Jerash



Deputy Mdanat Karak



Deputy Raimouny demanded that his constituency be allocated JD 30 million from the budget to open rural roads, build a sports club, renovate ruins and develop recreation facilities. It should also construct a hotel for tourists and schools for students. He said that Jerash was in need of vocational training centres, dental clinics and various social services. Mr. Raimouny asked that Jerash be elevated to a governorate level. He praised the government for giving special attention to the armed forces and security departments but he said that government after government have given the people hope for better services without enough tangible accomplishments.

Deputy Mdanat criticised the government's implementation of the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) noting that while the imports in 1992 were estimated as increasing by 20 per cent over the previous years, in 1991 the registered by only three per cent. He said that this was one of the main weaknesses of the IMF agreement which opens the door for imports which drains the country's hard currency. "The government should show parliament and the public real progress and not issue mere words in the struggle to deal with unemployment as we want practical steps to be taken to deal with this chronic issue," he said.

Deputy Abdul Salam Freihat Ajloun



life impossible for many groups. He said that the government should put an end to merchants greed and monopoly and reduce the margin of their profits. He blamed the government for failing to introduce a clear policy on taxation, thus failing to create an opportune climate for stability of prices. He said that the government's 2,125 jobs have been filled unfairly and he urged the government to conduct an investigation to prevent further cases of corruption and abuse of government office. Turning to the National Aid Fund (NAF), Mr. Freihat, said that aid should be distributed more fairly and not according to the whims of government officials. Regrettably, he said, the margin of poverty has been increasing and little has been done to deal with this situation.

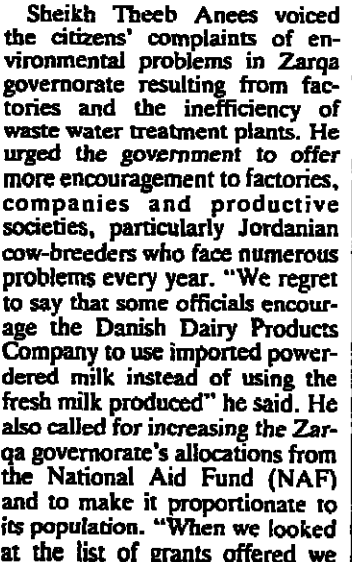
Deputy Bassam Haddadin Zarqa



deputies take the floor to present their views but the government does not take them into consideration. The deputy criticised the budget draft for what he described as a "deliberate overlooking of the needs of poor sector of society and the question of heavy taxes." He noted that limited-income groups will, under the terms of the new budget, be paying more taxes than the rich which he said would further cause more social imbalances.

Casting doubts about the finance minister's figures, of economic growth, Mr. Haddadin said that while the minister claims that the country has achieved 15 per cent growth at current prices the IMF experts estimate the growth in 1992 at no more than three per cent. Calling on the minister to resign, Mr. Haddadin said that Mr. Basel Jaradani's budget address was void of any mention of the deteriorating levels of the people's living conditions and the mounting problem of unemployment.

Deputy Theeb Anees Zarqa



Dr. Sa'ad Haddadin Madaba



Sheikh Theeb Anees voiced the citizens' complaints of environmental problems in Zarqa governorate resulting from factories and the inefficiency of waste water treatment plants. He urged the government to offer more encouragement to factories, companies and productive societies, particularly Jordanian cow-breeders who face numerous problems every year. "We regret to say that some officials encourage the Danish Dairy Products Company to use imported powdered milk instead of using the fresh milk produced," he said. He also called for increasing the Zarqa governorate's allocations from the National Aid Fund (NAF) and to make it proportionate to its population. "When we looked at the list of grants offered we found the allocation of some governorates which has a smaller population to Zarqa at more than double our amount," he said. The deputy also affirmed the need to resolve the transport problem in Zarqa, to allow more buses to operate in the governorate and to avoid favouritism in granting licences to transport companies.

Dr. Haddadin called for the need to tackle important issues such as unemployment saying it is a dangerous problem that has serious implications on the Jordanian society. He also demanded the government to open new health centres and attribute more attention to communication services.

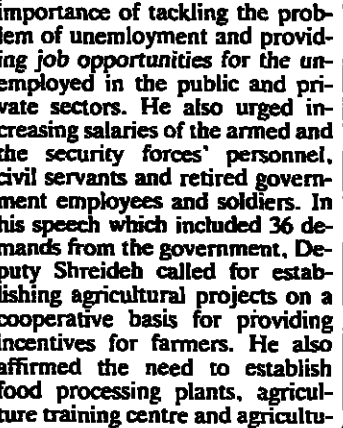
Abdul Majid Al Shreideh Al Koura District



Deputy Ali Hawamdeh Amman

Dr. Hawamdeh urged the Ministry of Health to execute the national health insurance scheme to benefit the poor. He also called on the ministry to upgrade the level of services to mother and child health care centres. Referring to the populated regions of Amman, he said that nearly one third of the returning expatriates have settled in the eastern and southern areas of Amman. He said that the concerned government departments ought to improve and raise the standard of basic services to these people. To deal with the problem of poverty, Dr. Hawamdeh said that the National Aid Fund should increase the monthly assistance to each needy family.

Deputy Mohammad Zaben Badia



Dr. Ahmad Al Kofahi Irbid



Deputy Zaben urged the government to deal with the question of unemployment and reduce the margin of poverty which is now affecting a large sector of the population. He said that equal opportunities should be allowed for all in the process of filling government posts. He further demanded that the government give due attention to the development of the Jordan's rural regions and badia which he described as the main regions of agricultural production. Dr. Zaben said development of these areas will not be achieved without providing them with basic services like electric power and water resources.

Dr. Kofahi attributed the state of dependence and underdevelopment which the country is living under to the abandonment of the Islamic method. Politically, the concept of the "one Islamic nation" should be revived. Our society suffers from ignorance of the family concept, its importance, rights and duties, regarding the economy. Dr. Kofahi said that we should embark on creating an Islamic international stock market and currency unification. "Our mission is to go back to the Islamic method, it is a national, Islamic and human necessity," he said.

Hamam Sa'eed Suwelleh

Voicing the Muslim Brotherhood's important role in the country, Deputy Sa'eed called for the implementation of the Islamic economic system rather than "international economic systems which consume the resources and the wealth of the Arab countries." He criticised "the unilateral procedures carried out in drawing up economic policies without consulting experts in the field." He also demanded that the government submit private institutions' budgets to be assessed by the Lower House of Parliament. The deputy called for the adoption of austerity measures and its increase in production especially in the field of agriculture.

Salim Al Zou'bi Irbid

Deputy Zou'bi criticised the draft budget pointing to the noticeable absence in giving detailed information on all issues. He said that figures shown in the draft budget are not accurate, they do not cover for instance the expenditure on arms or the fuel sales surplus, and the estimate of capital expenditure is exaggerated. He said that the estimated decrease in the budget's deficit from JD 388 million to JD 54 million is plausible, but this decrease is partly due to the JD 60 million levied from returnees for the year 1992, which are not considered as constant revenues. The deputy warned against the noticeable increase in imports saying that this will threaten the country's economy, consume its resources and hinder possible expansion in local investing.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Caricature exhibition by cartoonist Najj Al Ali at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Art Gallery.

### POETRY RECITAL

★ Recital of English poems by Arab-American poet Ahmaz Abce Feder at the Phoenix Art Gallery — 6 p.m.

## Somali factions meet in Addis Ababa

(Continued from Page 1)

when the U.S.-led forces of Operation Restore Hope leave. U.S. officials say they want to pull out the first American troops as early as month's end, a prospect many Somalis do not welcome.

The demonstration against Dr. Ghali in the Ethiopian capital was the latest in a string of protests against him during his swing through the Balkans and East Africa.

Dr. Ghali was forced to flee to the U.S. Marine compound in Mogadishu Sunday when clans-

men allied with a powerful warlord pelted U.N. headquarters with rocks and garbage and tore down the U.N. flag.

The demonstrators were aligned with General Mohammad Farra Aided, whose refusal to let U.N. peacekeepers guard aid shipments helped to drive the U.S.-led mission in Somalia. They accused the U.N. of bias.

On Thursday, Dr. Ghali was jeered and spat at in the streets of Sarajevo, the besieged Bosnian capital, when he appealed to its residents to give peace talks more time.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## Growing beyond ceiling

ONE OF THE most valid points raised during the ongoing debate on the 1993 draft budget is the argument over why the government was unable during the past year to make optimum utilisation of the funds that have come to the country in the form of savings of the returns.

Against the regular reports of increasing volumes of deposits and saving accounts in the Kingdom's commercial banks, one would have thought that it was only a matter of time before our planners came up with innovative ideas to divert the money into industrial projects which offer the double-fold benefit of contributing to self-reliance and creating more jobs.

But then, the problem was and is a little bit more complex than that. Conditions attached to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) banned commercial bank lendings more than JD 250 million — JD 200 million for the private sector and the rest for the public sector — during the year 1992. The lion's share of the amount for the private sector was gobbled up — most of it for non-industrial purposes — in the first four months of the year, prompting the Central Bank of Jordan to step in and tighten the ropes. But then it was already too late.

What we have in store for 1993 will not be much different, except of course, a little more control on commercial bank credits. But that is not really going to help serve the national objective of economic growth in real terms — increased industrial growth and new employment opportunities — especially when considering the expected increase in 1993 imports and the huge number of unemployed in the country.

Official as well as independent studies have said that Jordan needs several billion dollars to beef up and create infrastructure projects and address the chronic unemployment problem. Against this backdrop any conditions that restrain industrial, job-creating investments have no place in Jordanian economic planning.

What the situation may need is a new approach to the IMF. Jordan has performed well in its economic adjustment programme, and that in itself is one of its strengths in tabling an argument that commercial bank loans should be channelled directly to industrial ventures which create jobs without an IMF-imposed ceiling.

Granted, the IMF is least concerned about whether Jordan registers any economic growth or not as long as the international watchdog is satisfied that the Kingdom can, sooner or later, repay its foreign debts. But that should not prevent Jordan from trying to get a better deal suited to serve its long-term goals.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily said Monday that the Rabin government is in real trouble after having to face determined deportees and the U.N. Security Council resolution demanding their return. The Israelis are now exposed to a campaign of regional and international condemnation for their actions and their defiance of the world community's decision concerning the evictees and disregard of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the paper. It said that the Israeli government was acting hysterically in a provocative manner against the Palestinians and the world community at large. On the whole, the Rabin government insists on not benefiting from the lessons of the past and now the fact that the more oppressive it becomes the more determined the Palestinians will be to pursue the struggle for freedom. The paper said that Mr. Rabin has to realise that the iron-fist policy and the policy of breaking the bones of the Palestinian youth can by no means stifle the spirit of resistance or stop the intifada, continued the paper. It said that shelling the deportees' camp in southern Lebanon would not scare the Palestinians or force them to leave the area for Lebanon nor can the repressive measures being escalated against the Palestinian people achieve that evil goal. The paper said that the Rabin government, which has refused to cooperate with the Red Cross in passing food and medicine to the evictees, is now trying the tactic of bombarding the camp so as to force its residents to flee, but this can never happen. The paper said the mad actions of Israel, which is subject to worldwide condemnation for its actions, can by no means save the Rabin government from the difficult position it got into by deciding to deport the Palestinians. It said that the Security Council should be held responsible for the tragedies and the ills that are plaguing the region.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that an Arab summit meeting has become a necessity now in the face of the continued Israeli intransigence over the deportees question. Mahmoud Rimawi said that a summit is required now to prevent Mr. Rabin from aborting the peace process and deporting more and more Arabs from their homeland. As a fact, there are 10 Arab countries directly or indirectly involved in the bilateral and multilateral peace talks with Israel, which is disregarding the Arab Union and trying to undermine the peace process, added the writer. He said that the Arabs are now called on to meet for consultation over this dangerous situation, and the deportation question presents a good opportunity for the Arab leaders to reconcile and to meet to safeguard the higher national interests. The writer expressed dismay over the delay of a planned meeting by Arab foreign ministers upon Lebanon's call, noting that such meeting is urgent to pave the ground for an Arab summit. The writer said that the delays in taking action can only expose the Arab and Islamic countries' weakness and their subjugation to the desires of their common enemy, Arab leaders, he added, ought to meet immediately to look into ways to force the Israelis to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions and save the fate of the Middle East peace talks.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Israeli stupidity, Palestinian violence and the smell of victory

The recent upsurge in violence in Palestine/Israel by all concerned parties — the physical violence and militarism of the Palestinian resistance, the political violence of the Israelis, the intellectual and moral violence of the United States as Israel's primary supporter and the national self-flagellating violence of an apparently pacified and disinterested Arab-Islamic World — is a totally natural and expected aspect of the current phase of the Arab-Israeli conflict that should not surprise anyone.

The two most powerful forces at work in Palestine/Israel today are Israeli stupidity and Palestinian anger. The stupid Israelis persist in reverting to policies that have not only failed to achieve their desired goals, but have also promoted increasingly hostile and activist Arab political sentiments. This is not new.

Israeli stupidity goes back a long way. The Israeli policy of ignoring the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or trying to wipe it out by assassinations and military attacks in the 1970s only cemented the PLO's legitimacy as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and earned it widespread international recognition. The Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in 1982 was designed to destroy the political weight of the PLO and make the northern Israeli region safe from rocket attacks, but it achieved just the opposite effect. It further amalgamated the international diplomatic credibility of the PLO, and stimulated Palestinian national policies that forced the Israelis to sit face-to-face with a Palestinian delegation demanding national rights and backed by virtually the whole world.

Israel's northern region is less secure now than it was before 1982, because the provocative Israeli invasion and self-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon have only stimulated the growth of Lebanese political and military resistance (especially among Shiites), the intervention of Iran, and the creation of a political climate that will promote closer Lebanese-Palestinian coordination. Far from being a security zone, what Israel set up in southern Lebanon with a rag-tag army of cheap Lebanese desperados should more accurately be called a "stupidity zone."

The Israeli policy of clamping down hard on the Palestinian intifada has also backfired. Far from quelling the intifada, Israel's iron-fist policy has fuelled further Palestinian resistance and determination. The expulsion of over 415 Palestinians last month, mostly Hamas activists or sympathisers, has helped forge a political reconciliation between Hamas and Fateh, giving the Palestinian national movement more unity and common sense of purpose than it has enjoyed in years.

In the face of such sustained stupidity by Israel, we have the anger and activism of the Palestinians — a people whose century-long struggle for communal dignity and national rights is nothing less than heroic. The determination of the Palestinians to continue battling for their rights is directly proportional to the repeated mistakes and miscalculations of the Israelis. We need only compare the Palestinian national condition today against that of twenty years ago to see how the collective national will of the Palestinians continues to increase, as Israeli international support frays and the world's diplomatic focus is on assuring the

Palestinians their rights under U.N. resolutions.

Twenty years ago, the more politicised and angry elements of the Palestinians were engaged in hijacking airplanes and other acts of unconventional warfare than often spilled over into indiscriminate terror in Europe and other places, generating the opposition of most of the world. Today, the majority of Palestinians in Palestine are engaged in a daily street battle against a vicious military occupier, while the Palestinian leadership is deep into peace talks, with the support of the entire world.

This long-term trend at the end of the 20th century is crucially important because it represents a historic reversal of the pro-Zionist trend that dominated the early decades of this century. Zionism achieved its short-term goals in Palestine — the state of Israel and the denial of Palestinian-Arab national identity and rights — because it conducted a patient, methodical campaign to garner human sympathy and political support among the world's powers. Hitler, Nazism, and other anti-Jewish trends in Europe, Russia and North America helped fuel pro-Zionist sympathies, which the Jewish immigrants and colonial vanguard in Palestine further stocked with their own deeds of self-promoting pioneerism, courage, sacrifice, and hard work. The combination worked, and was aided by general international disregard for Arab views and positions. The flow of history and weight of emotionalism then were in favour of Jewish/Zionist aspirations. Israel was created as a physical fact. But Palestine was also born, if only as an idea and an identity in the hearts of people denied their right to live in peace and dignity.

That historical process that gave birth to Israel and that dismembered Palestinian society is now being reversed. International support for Israel's existence and security is clear-cut, but it does not extend to Israel's occupation of Arab lands and denial of Palestinian rights. International support for Palestinian rights is also significant, even though it is not always translated into diplomatic acts or political facts. Like the Zionist Jews of the 1930s and 1940s, who projected a worldwide image of sacrifice, courage and profound national determination, the Palestinians today project this same image, especially in their daily resistance and street battles of the intifada.

As the balance and momentum of international credibility and sympathy are gradually redressed, and Palestinians are seen to be eligible for the same kinds of national rights in the 1990s that Zionist Jews achieved in the 1940s, the Palestinian national struggle will probably intensify and become more violent. Just as the Zionists turned to more audacious armed struggle in the mid-to-late 1940s, when they sensed they were near their goals, the Palestinians are now in the process of doing the same thing.

The two key supporting parties in the Palestinian-Israeli struggle — the United States behind Israel and the Arab countries behind the Palestinians — are peculiarly low-key these days. Whether due to exhaustion, confusion, loss of interest, or more pressing priorities elsewhere, both appear content to leave the Palestinians and Israelis to fight it out. This will see the centre of

gravity of the Arab-Israeli conflict shift away from the power corridors of Washington, the United Nations, and other international centres, and back to where it started in the first place — among Zionist/Jewish immigrant colonisers and Palestinian-Arab natives in the land of Palestine.

This frightens the Israelis, because they know deep in their hearts that the match-up between Zionism and Palestinian-Arab nationalism — undistorted by foreign interference — is an equal one. They know that in a one-to-one confrontation they will be fought to a draw by those exhibited half a century ago by the Zionist Jews who came here from the north and west. They will not admit it, but the Israelis sense in their bones that the 1990s for the Palestinians are the historical parallel of the 1940s for the Zionist Jews.

Left alone to the confrontation with Zionism and Israel, the Palestinians will increase their use of political and military violence against Israelis, while conducting an increasingly sophisticated diplomatic battle in the ongoing peace talks — precisely as the Zionists did in Palestine in the period 1945-48, or as the Americans did in Vietnam in the late 1960s, as everybody is doing in the former Yugoslavia today, or as all other parties do when they are engaged in serious national struggle.

The escalating violence in Palestine — including the suffering of the Palestinian expellees in southern Lebanon — is a positive sign in historical terms, despite the negative consequences of violence and human suffering in the short term. It will elicit further Israeli stupidity, and a rather detached posture by the United States and the Arab countries — until the confrontation in Palestine gets so intense that political pressures from all sides compel Zionism and Palestinian-Arab nationalism to reconcile with one another once and for all.

The key to success, I would suggest, is a constructive balance between the daily struggle on the ground in Palestine and the logistics of peace negotiations half a world away. Each feeds the other with credibility and vigour. The PLO is right to maintain its participation in the peace talks, even though the talks are slow and frustrating. The Americans want us to judge progress according to their criterion of two-minute television commercials and four-year political terms. The Israelis want us to use the criterion of the historical span of the Jewish people's identity and rights. Some leading Arab states want us to use the criterion of their own regimes' increasingly fragile race against rejection by their own people.

We should refuse all of these distorted and alien values and maintain our faith in the indomitable combination of humanity and the forces of history — of a Palestinian people destined to be free, soon, because of the authenticity of their national and communal identity, the durability of their political struggle, and the credibility of their diplomatic posture. Keep watching the suddenly heightened stupidity of the Israelis. It's a sure sign of the historical process at work. And who can tell us more about history than our Jewish cousins?

By Rami G. Khouri

# The Arab boycott — facts and fiction

Following is the December report of the London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.

THE ARAB states have operated an economic boycott against the state of Israel since its foundation. For years, pro-Israel organisations have lobbied western governments to take action to end the boycott, and the issue has again been highlighted in recent months by intensified lobbying and media comment, mostly from individuals with a long track record of endorsing Israeli policies towards the Arab World. Another dimension has been added to the anti-boycott drive, however, by the European Community as a result of a call contained in the Lisbon Declaration.

The European Council, meeting in Lisbon on June 26-27, 1992, stated in its final declaration that it looked forward to an Israeli settlement halt and to Israel's application of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and followed this by saying: "The European Council also calls upon the members of the Arab League to lift the boycott of trade to Israel, which is incompatible with the spirit of the peace process." This theme has since been re-emphasised by members of the British government, including the prime minister and foreign secretary.

It is wrong in principle to link these issues. Israel is an occupying power which is under an obligation to apply the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights is clearly prohibited by Article 49 of the Convention, which states: "The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Israel's obligation to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention would stand irrespective of the state of relations between Israel and its neighbours, and should not be seen as in any way being a matter over which bargaining might take place. In contrast, the boycott is a non-violent means of pressure applied to Israel by the Arab states, none of which, apart from Egypt, have a peace treaty with it. The call for an end to the boycott in exchange for Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's measures

to restrict settlement construction is, in any case, undermined by the fact that even the restricted programme allows for the building of homes which could house an additional 50,000 illegal settlers, as well as permitting continued construction in East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and areas deemed vital to Israel's security, which includes the entire Jordan Valley.

As much of the anti-boycott propaganda has focussed on those aspects of it which its exponents would see as most likely to arouse opposition in Europe and the U.S., it is not surprising that many people have little idea about its scope or its purpose. The record needs to be set straight.

## Primary boycott

The Arab League was not the first body to apply a boycott to a Middle Eastern country. From the 1920s until the foundation of Israel, the Zionist labour federation in Palestine, the Histadrut, had sought to enforce a boycott of Palestinian Arab labour by Jewish employers as well as a boycott of Palestinian Arab products in the market place. Jewish shopkeepers who stocked such goods risked having their stores wrecked, and employers faced mass Histadrut pickets if they hired Arab workers.

The present-day Arab boycott of Israel was launched in October, 1945, shortly after the establishment of the League of Arab States, when Palestine was still under the British Mandate. The league called upon Palestinian Arabs to carry out an economic boycott of the "Zionist" population. This boycott call was subsequently addressed to the Arab World as a whole. A boycott policy was therefore in place when the state of Israel was proclaimed in May 1948, and was then readily transformed into a boycott by the Arab World of all Israeli goods, and of trade in Arab goods to Israel. This is commonly called the primary boycott.

There can be no doubt about the legality of this form of action by the Arab states. No country can be obliged to trade with another country if it does not wish to do so, and this fact seems to be recognised by Western countries which are critical of the

## Arab boycott

Many similar boycotts have been in force in the recent past. Most African countries boycotted South Africa over its apartheid policy following the 1961 Sharpeville Massacre; China long operated a boycott against Taiwan; the U.S. has placed an embargo on trade with Cuba since 1962 and has employed similar policies towards Vietnam in more recent times. This type of boycott is a matter of bilateral relations between states and its termination is intimately bound up with a resolution of the basic issues in dispute between the parties concerned (such as the dismantling of South Africa's apartheid system) or a marked change in their relationship (such as that which appears to be occurring between China and Taiwan). As yet, conditions are not ripe for the Arab World to end the primary boycott.

## Secondary boycott

In April, 1950, the Arab League broadened the scope of the original boycott into areas which have proved more contentious. It introduced a series of measures which have come to be called the secondary boycott. At its core was a call for the Arab states not to have dealings with non-Arab firms whose business activities served to strengthen Israel's economy or military apparatus.

This still left some scope for foreign companies to engage in business dealings with Israel and also with the Arab World, as many firms have done: a walk around most supermarkets will confirm that fact. The line between what was and was not acceptable to the Arab Boycott Office in Damascus has not been clear in the West, but certain activities were definitely regarded as a basis for putting a company on the boycott list: selling arms to Israel, maintaining a head office for Middle Eastern business in Israel, establishing or operating a factory there, allowing Israeli firms to use its patents or trademarks, and investing in Israeli companies or giving them technical help. Aeroplanes which land in Israel would not be allowed to fly on to an Arab country, and cargo ships would be boycotted if they were believed to have visited Arab countries and Israel on the same voyage.

In an age when efforts are being made to reduce obstacles to free trade internationally these measures might appear out of step with the times, and they are certainly an impediment to firms wishing to do business with all states in the Middle East. But to see the "primary" and "secondary" boycotts purely from an economic perspective is to lose sight of the larger picture. The boycott was introduced to further political objectives which appeared perfectly justified to the Arab World. Initially, to prevent the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, which went against the wishes of the Arab majority there and could only be accomplished at their expense. In the more recent past, once most of the Arab states had come to accept the idea of making peace with Israel upon the condition of it yielding up its conquests of 1967, the boycott became a non-military means of sustaining pressure upon Israel to enter into a peace process on their basis.

Just as it would be widely recognised that states cannot be forced to trade with other states against their will, it should also be recognised that, where a conflict is unresolved, states might legitimately refuse to have dealings with companies which strengthen the hands of their enemies through their activities. But there are further aspects to the boycott for which there would appear to be a weaker case and it is these which have received the most adverse publicity. These are part of the secondary boycott, but are often known as the tertiary boycott and the personal boycott.

The tertiary boycott is said to be a boycott of firms which deal with blacklisted companies, and is sometimes believed to have made firms contemplating deals with those they believed to be blacklisted to back off. In fact, the Arab League does not acknowledge the existence of a tertiary boycott. What the Boycott Office does do is to blacklist goods produced by non-blacklisted firms which have components made by blacklisted firms in them. Other goods produced by such firms would not be blacklisted.

This particular measure is therefore less fearsome for businesses than its reputation, but must be difficult to administer and involve no end of problems,

especially given the scope of the internationalisation of the production of many high-tech goods. The complications to which this measure can lead were revealed in the late 1970s, when Palestinian-owned firms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip found their trading opportunities with the rest of the Arab World curtailed because certain of their products were believed to contain Israeli-made components. For some, this was unavoidable, given Israel's stronghold upon the occupied territories' economy; development restrictions necessitated some recourse to Israeli products. In this instance, the boycott might have had some negative impact on the Israeli economy, but it certainly had a worse impact on the Palestinian economy, and this would be one of the two areas in which a relaxation of the boycott might wisely be considered.

The other would be the personal boycott. In theory, this aspect of the secondary boycott involves the blacklisting of firms having prominent Zionists on their boards, and of public figures and entertainers who, for example, do fund-raising for Israel or for Zionist institutions, or publicly proclaim their support for Israel. This raises a number of problems. Should a company be penalised because a director happens to be a strong supporter of the state of Israel, even though his political views might have no bearing upon that company's business practices? An individual might indeed offend Arabs by his or her strong support for Israel, but what would be the sense in turning such people away or giving them a hard time if they choose to visit Arab countries and might perhaps thereby become more understanding of Arab views?

The problems don't stop with the theory, however. It has often been claimed that this form of boycott is directed against all Jews, irrespective of whether they hold Zionist views or not. The Arab League insists that this is not so, but the criteria by which it makes its decisions do not seem clear. The Boycott Office's approach appears to be an ultra-cautious one: it seems to proceed on the assumption that the Jewish people with whom it is concerned are supporters of Israel unless it has good reason to believe otherwise. This may be seen as a justifiable assumption in the light of widespread Jewish support for Israel and of Israel's claims of

Jewish solidarity, but surely it would be more fair to proceed on the opposite assumption, analogous to the legal one of "innocent until proven guilty".

In any case, isn't "Zionist" or "pro-Israel" too wide a categorisation in these circumstances? Such terms today describe a wide range of opinions, from outspoken racists who advocate the expulsion of all Palestinians from their homeland to people who believe in withdrawal from the lands occupied in 1967, an independent Palestinian state and talks with the PLO. Should all be viewed in the same light? Yet how could a policy which discriminated between them be implemented, short of extended quizzing of each individual about his or her views?

## Conclusion

Israel is the target of an Arab boycott because of the wrongs it inflicted upon the Palestinian people in turning the majority into refugees, taking most of their land and denying them the right to national self-determination. The Arab states and the PLO have made a series of concessions to Israel over the decades, and are committed to seeking peace with it. However, they feel that Israel's demands, and then comes back again calling for something else, without ever making any concession of substance on the basic issues in return. Now, without withdrawing from the 1967 occupied lands and South Lebanon, without allowing refugees home and without accepting the right of the Palestinian people to decide their own future, it wants an end to the Arab boycott. The Arabs are entitled to ask, "With what should we now negotiate?" The Arab boycott is an extraordinary measure, which exists only because of a very abnormal situation of intense conflict. Western countries seeking an end to the boycott would be best advised to direct their efforts primarily at securing an end to the conflict from which it sprang. Meanwhile, a step by step approach might be taken to reduce the scope of the boycott, firstly to eliminate the palpably unjust and practically problematic aspects indicated above, and then to take the process further in response to concrete concessions by Israel at the negotiating table and on the ground in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and South Lebanon.

# Telecom says the number's up for nasty phone callers

By Susan Watts

BRITISH TELECOM IS going to test a device designed to curb malicious and dirty calls — it shows the number the caller is phoning from, allowing customers to choose whether to answer. Five hundred domestic customers in Elgin, northeast Scotland, are to take part in a three-month trial of the "caller display" system from next month.

Carol Rue, BT's network services development manager, described it as "the telephone equivalent of the peephole in your front door." Subject to a successful trial, she expected the service to be available nationwide by the end of 1994.

An add-on unit is expected to cost £30 to £35, or a special telephone about £79 to £80. Such a facility has been intro-

duced piecemeal in much of the United States, leading to a dramatic fall in malicious and hoax calls. But there has been little public consultation, which has led to a backlash from some consumers and even prompted bans on caller-ID services in some states.

However, a recent survey in Britain found that more than 80 per cent of respondents could not recall an occasion in the past

three months when they would not have wanted their telephone number displayed.

However, Sue Bloomfield, of the Consumer Association's policy unit, said that people should be able to block the service, and opt not to have their number displayed.

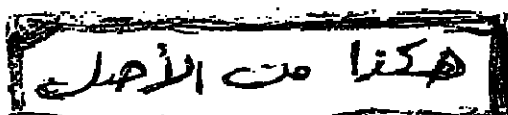
"It is a useful service to people who want more control over what calls they want to take, but there

is also a privacy issue. Another potential problem is that companies could capture numbers and use them for marketing. People might respond to an advertisement, and find themselves added to a database," she said.

BT promised that ex-directory customers would be consulted, and they would be able to stop their numbers being shown. It is not yet possible for mobile and car telephones to make use of the

system. BT plans even more services based on Caller Line Identity: a facility to ring back the last caller automatically — used if a telephone stops ringing just as you get to it.

It might also be possible to request a different tone for business and personal calls, and to reprogramme telephones remotely to direct calls to another number — The Independent.





# Generals' autobiographies prove 'triumph without victory'

By G.H. Jansen

"To the conqueror the spoils," as the saying has it, and among those spoils is the writing or rewriting by the victors of how their victory came about.

So two books under review are written by victorious generals in the 1991 Gulf war, autobiographies of General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander-in-chief of "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm," and of Lieutenant General William G. Pagonis, in overall command of the logistics of those operations. Both books are honest enough, deliberately or by happenstance, to show how and why the generals failed to achieve real victory.

The books are Gen. Schwarzkopf's "It Doesn't Take a Hero," Bantam Press, London and Gen. Pagonis' "Moving Mountains," Harvard Business School Press, Boston.

General Schwarzkopf says repeatedly that the mandate, the objective of the campaign he led was not to overthrow President Saddam Hussein but was limited simply to evicting Iraqi forces from Kuwait, which he achieved.

And which is why President Saddam is still the ruler of Iraq while the general's commander-in-chief, President George Bush, will soon leave power to the considerable discomfiture of George Bush and the American public and to the great joy of Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people.

This thoroughly unsatisfactory situation of "triumph without vic-



Norman Schwarzkopf

tory," the title of an earlier Gulf war book, came about when Iraq's Kurdish and Shiite communities, in response to a call from President Bush rose in revolt and had their revolt crushed by the divisions of the Republican Guard, which General Schwarzkopf allowed to escape from encirclement and destruction in northern Kuwait on Feb. 27, the final day of the 100-hour or five-day war.

That colossal military blunder happened because the jaws of the trap enclosing the Guard divisions did not spring shut, but left a gap of 17 to 35 kilometres through which the divisions streamed north, past Basra, where they lived to fight another day against the Kurds and the Shiites.

And that happened because of

a failure of command and of generalship by Gen. Schwarzkopf and because of a failure of logistics by Gen. Pagonis.

The unit that was to spring the trap and complete the encirclement was the U.S. VII Corps commanded by General Fred Franks; it was he who was directly responsible for the failure to close the gap while indirectly responsible was General George Yeosock, commander of all army ground forces in the war theatre.

Gen. Schwarzkopf makes several complaints about the dilatory sluggishness of the VII Corps, complaints that were made even by General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in far-distant Washington. But none of these complaints were able to get Gen. Yeosock or Gen. Franks moving forward as fast as the situation demanded.

On the evening of Feb. 27, Gen. Schwarzkopf's duty as a commander was absolutely clear: he should have removed Gen. Yeosock and Gen. Franks from their posts and replaced them with generals who were ready to push the attack with all the ample resources, on the ground and in the air, that were available.

There was a precedent of a commander having to deal roughly with generals in the middle of a battle that they were not prosecuting vigorously. On Oct. 25, 1942, the attack by Gen. Montgomery's Eighth Army on the German defense lines at El Ala-

meins was faltering. At 1:30 in the morning Gen. Montgomery called to his command caravan, parked not far from the front line, General Lumsden of the Tenth Corps, in charge of the most forward sector, and told him "very plainly" that if he did not get General Gatehouse, commanding the Tenth Armoured Division spearheading the attack, to move forward forthwith, he would replace both Gen. Lumsden and Gen. Gatehouse. The "very plain" threat of sacking worked and the breakthrough was effected.

But then there was more of that mystical quality, the power of command, in the little finger of the small, wizened Irishman Montgomery than in all the portly bulk of Schwarzkopf. It is a charismatic thing, one either has "command" or one does not: Gen. Schwarzkopf clearly did not.

A failure of generalship was partly responsible for the failure of Gen. Yeosock and Gen. Franks to close the gap. The unit they selected to fulfill this task was the prestigious 1st Cavalry Division. On the previous morning, of Feb. 26, this division was guarding the headquarters of the VII Corps well inside Saudi Arabia and 411 kilometres from the battle line. So to get into the fight it had to make a non-stop dash of 411 kilometres with the understandable result that it was in no condition to move directly into battle the evening of Feb. 27.

Gen. Franks decided that "it was too dangerous" to do that and so ordered the division to move early on the 28th: by that time, most of the Republican Guard divisions had slipped out of the bag. To handle a crack division in this fashion — holding it in reserve far from the battlefield until the very last minute — is atrocious generalship, particularly since Gen. Schwarzkopf admits that Gen. Yeosock had been asking for it earlier on.

Gen. Schwarzkopf gives another example of Gen. Yeosock's dilatoriness, that is, of his own failure to impose his commanding will on this general. Gen. Yeosock had been "ordered" to seize the Safwan area where the ceasefire agreement with the Iraqis was to be signed. Two days later, Gen. Schwarzkopf discovered that this order not only was not carried out but had been reported as having been carried out: "I'd been lied to," he writes. Yet, on the following page, he describes Gen. Yeosock as "a great commander," which explains why Gen. Schwarzkopf himself was not a great commander: he was just too nice and kind a person.

There was one other reason for this deficiency. Gen. Schwarzkopf chose to command "Desert Storm" from the map room of the Saudi Defence Ministry in the Saudi capital Riyadh, almost 700 kilometres from the battlefield, probably because he had every sort of electronic gadget and de-

vice with which to keep in touch with the front. He admits that during the week of the battle he left the ministry building just twice — to go to press briefings. But for a real commander there is no substitute for the personal touch; as Shakespeare put it so wonderfully in Henry V, the scene on the eve of the Battle of Agincourt, there was "a little touch of Henry in the night." There was no little touch of Norman on the battlefields of "Desert Storm."

In his book on "Hitler's Generals" the British military historian Correll Barnett divides them into "Desk Generals," "Field Commanders" and "The Battlefield

Generals." Gen. Schwarzkopf was a desk general par excellence, but without the military expertise of the German group — such master strategists as Halder, Keitel and Jodl. Like Eisenhower before him, Gen. Schwarzkopf was the managing director of a large military enterprise.

To make matters worse, there was a direct phone line connecting Gen. Schwarzkopf with Gen. Powell in Washington, and they talked several times a day, even discussing the movements of brigades. With all this long distance back-seat-driving, it is a wonder that the generals and soldiers of "Desert Storm" achieved as much as they did.

The general would seem to be a good example of the "Peter's Principle" that persons with a certain competence are almost inevitably promoted beyond that level of competence.

Gen. Pagonis' book is one long boast, mostly justified, of how, with great efficiency, he ran the complex logistics of the Gulf war. But he, too, contributed to the strategic failure of the "Desert Storm" — the failure to encircle the Guards' divisions — because in the crucial final two days the army's overland fuel supply was "broken" and armoured units had to wait 12 to 16 hours for refuelling, during which time Iraqi units got away.

## Fateh and Hamas agree to cooperate

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's expulsion of 415 of its supporters and sympathisers to South Lebanon. Mr. Arafat was considered to be in a bind and was being urged by his colleagues to open a dialogue with Hamas. Hamas had insisted that the PLO chief apologise for comments he made in October in which he compared Hamas to the hardline Zulu movement in South Africa.

But the expulsion of the bulk of its leadership in the occupied territories weakened Hamas's position considerably and many observers believe the group had no choice except to open a dialogue with the PLO immediately. An extraordinary all-Palestinian conference was held in Tunis late last month under the chairmanship of Mr. Arafat to discuss the plight of the 415 ex-

pellees, the largest number of Palestinians to be expelled since the 1967 war.

Hamas attended those talks upon receiving an invitation and pressed for immediate action which included a Palestinian pull-out from the peace talks with Israel.

So far the PLO has refused to do so. While the PLO is not officially "allowed" to participate in the peace talks it directs the peace negotiators and is privy to their every move and decision.

## Front leader urges independents' return

(Continued from page 1)

members to elect an independent Islamist to the prestigious post of speaker of the consultative assembly.

"They can only gain if they return and forget the sad events

of last week," the source said adding that at least two of the resigned members, Raef Najim and Zuhair Abul Ragheb, would be elected to the executive committee if they changed their minds.

It was not clear Monday

whether the independents would accept the IAF offer. However, some sources close to them maintained that even if some of them returned to the IAF, "the two ministers — Minister of Municipalities Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat and Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeideen — will definitely stay away."

## 'Collaborator' suspected of killing

(Continued from page 1)

one or more "collaborators" attacked the agent of the Shin Bet, which plays a major role in controlling the occupied territories.

Police believed the suspect was linked to Hamas, whose members were among the 415 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon last month after six fatal attacks on Israeli soldiers.

Israeli media speculated that Sunday's slaying was Hamas' response to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's reported remark Sunday that the expulsions dealt a major blow to fundamentalist groups.

The mass circulation Yedioth Ahronoth daily said in its editorial that "an hour didn't go by and he (Rabin) was given reason to regret" his statement.

The daily Hadashot reported the main suspect in Nahmani's slaying was apparently from the

Bethlehem area in the occupied West Bank.

It quoted an unidentified Shin Bet agent as saying it was no surprise that a collaborator would turn on his controller, adding that "work in Arab territory is similar to entering a snake pit, you never know where the blow will come."

Radio reported that several family members of the suspect were arrested overnight, but police would not confirm such arrests.

In Lebanon, the evictees' spokesman, Gaza physician Abdul Aziz Rantisi, said Nahmani's killing "proves that the expulsion of doctors, engineers and professors has not provided security to the Israeli people."

Dr. Rantisi accused the Shin Bet of "luring Palestinian youths into such dirty habits as drug-taking and adultery in order to make into such dirty habits as

to make them collaborators with the occupier."

It was the first time in at least ten years that a Shin Bet man was killed in the course of duty, security sources said.

The Shin Bet is Israel's eyes and ears in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It controls many aspects of the lives of the 1.75 million Palestinians there, from approving who can work in Israel to fighting Palestinian groups.

It has been accused by Palestinians and human rights organisations of torturing Arab prisoners under interrogation.

The Shin Bet has also been repeatedly accused of pressuring youths into informing by offering rewards for them or for family members imprisoned by the authorities.

The service is widely feared by Palestinians, and former Shin Bet official Reuven Hazak predicted Nahmani's killing would damage the force's deterrence.

## Deputies criticise Cabinet, voice demands

(Continued from Page 1)

Zoubi, warned that "violation of people's right to employment and the unfairness in distributing (work opportunities) among various governorates... will fragment the country and spread hatred among citizens."

"The practice constitutes a blunt violation of the Constitution," he said.

Deputies also criticised the failure of ministries to implement capital investment projects allocated in their budgets, thus denying the jobs the work opportunities those projects would have created.

Building on a charge made by the Finance Committee that some ministers were abusing office to further their personal ambitions and electoral interests, many deputies demanded the government investigate the issue and bring it to an immediate end.

The National Aid Fund and the Ministry of Social Development were singled out in the committee's report for alleged abuse of office and unfair allocation of funds.

The government was also urged by deputies to accelerate administrative reforms in its "inefficient" bureaucracy.

Blaming the "economic backwardness" partly "on adopting the programmes of a foreign planner that worked for the building of economic systems that exploit our resources," the Muslim Brotherhood bloc demanded that government publicise its agreement with the IMF.

Other deputies reiterated their rejection of the IMF-designed measures, with one deputy claiming that IMF marks "appear in the social element of the draft budget" which places the burden of economic reform on limited

income people while beefing up the wealth of the rich.

In what was described as a political statement rather than a technical assessment of the draft budget, the Brotherhood also said the unsatisfactory economic performance of Jordan was rooted in "our deviation from God's orders in all fields."

The 23-strong bloc, which said it views the draft budget in light of its religious beliefs, charged that the document did not take into account what "God sanctioned and prohibited, adopting usury as one of its pillars."

In its speech, which was read out by Deputy Hajj Muhammad Said, the Brotherhood called for the adoption of Islamic economic principles it said were superior to all other economic models.

"Economists and statesmen in our countries have tried different (economic) systems except one and what were the results? Poverty increased; unemployment spread; and independence was threatened," said the Brotherhood, the only bloc in the House to deliver a collective speech.

"(These policies) made the country a follower of the IMF, which represents the capitalist greed and the colonial hatred," the Brotherhood said in its fiery seven-page speech.

The Brotherhood criticised the government for "withholding" economic information from the House, disabling it from practically reviewing its economic performance and budgets.

Echoing calls for the convening of a national conference on the economy, the Brotherhood said the positive economic performance in 1992 was due to temporary factors such as increased construction and the investment of

the returnees from the Gulf and not to the economic reform programme.

Like other members of the House, the Brotherhood demanded administrative reforms, more fairness in allocating employment opportunities, a halt to new taxes and channelling investment to productive sectors of the economy.

The Brotherhood also demanded that financially-independent government institutions and agencies be included in the budget so that they can be checked by the legislative authority.

Despite the severe criticism of the draft budget, however, government sources and parliamentarians expected the budget to be passed by the House. They pointed out that many deputies were addressing their constituents and beginning their reelection campaigns.

The House will resume its discussion of the budget Tuesday, with 21 deputies registered to speak and House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat warning deputies to prepare "for a long day."

## 'Rabin preparing Golan pullout plan'

(Continued from page 1)

President Hafez Al Assad, Tehran Radio said.

Mr. Rafsanjani, quoted by the radio, said Iranian and Syrian views were close in all areas but added:

"As we said from the start nothing will be achieved from negotiations and the legitimate struggle of the oppressed people of Palestine against the Qods-occupying regime (Israel) should continue until full restoration of their rights."

Tehran-Damascus cooperation can "thwart domination designs of world powers," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Mr. Khaddam arrived in Tehran Sunday to attend the biannual meeting of a joint commission which aims to promote economic and political ties between the two countries.

His high-ranking delegation includes Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara.

He said upon arrival that another principal aim of his visit was to mediate political and territorial disputes that have marred Iran's ties with its Gulf Arab

neighbours and with Egypt.

Egypt has accused Iran of backing Muslim fundamentalists who have engaged in attacks against foreigners, and Iran galvanised the Gulf Arabs against it in September by annexing Abu Musa, a Gulf island shared with the United Arab Emirates since 1971.

But one of Syria's main concern vis-a-vis Tehran is Iran's reaction to Syrian negotiations with Israel.

Iran's vice president, Hassan Habibi, said in a meeting with Mr. Khaddam Sunday that the United States was "trying to create tension in Islamic countries to overshadow the issue of Palestine."

The agency reported Mr. Khaddam as saying he agreed that "the presence of colonialists in Islamic countries was aimed at sowing discord and dividing Muslims."

Tehran Radio did not say whether Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Rafsanjani discussed Iran's dispute with the Gulf states or tensions between Iran and Egypt.

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Once Tasted Always Loved

## Shaath sees Israel's way out of crisis

(Continued from Page 1)

ground rules of the talks "saving time that is wasted by absolutely ridiculous proposals being put forward by Israel."

Israel should also accept that the Geneva conventions, which protect human rights in territories seized in war, applied to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The peace process is not in doubt. What is in doubt is when we are going to resume it," Dr. Shaath said.

Lebanon said Monday that Arab states would ask the U.N. for a mechanism and a timetable for the return of the Palestinians.

The evictees, trapped with little food and clean drinking water in an icy make-shift camp between Lebanese and Israeli frontlines in southern Lebanon, began organising for a long stay.

The killing of an Israeli secret policeman (see separate story), they said, proved the Jewish state was wrong to expel them as it showed that the expulsions had failed to curb the five-year-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Foreign Minister Fawzi Buzayeh told the Voice of Lebanon radio that Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo next Monday would call on the security council to draw up a timetable and mechanism to implement its resolution 799.

The resolution demands that Israel arrange for the immediate and safe return of the Palestinians, dumped in South Lebanon three weeks ago.

Mr. Buzayeh said international law required that Israel as the occupying force should "shoulder the responsibility for the safety and security of the citizens under occupation." Israel says the Palestinians are in Lebanese territory.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri said Monday he would never back down on his refusal to allow the Palestinians into government-controlled territory — even if some died.

The Palestinians say they support the Lebanese stand and will remain in the camp until Israel is forced to take them back.

The Palestinians accused Israel of trying to push them into Lebanese government-held territory by shelling the terrain surrounding their camp.

The evictees' spokesman, Gaza physician Abdul Aziz Rantisi, said the evictees had asked sympathetic villagers not to smuggle food to them so they will not be hurt by the Israeli shelling.

The evictees themselves have lately been bringing in their supplies, including calves and tinned food, from nearby villages controlled by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah.

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Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

## Spain beats Switzerland in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AP) — Brother-sister combination Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Emilio Sanchez scored hard-fought singles victories Monday, lifting Spain past defending champion Switzerland in the quarterfinals of the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome.

Sanchez Vicario downed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 1-6, 6-0, 6-3 and her elder brother then fought back from the brink to defeat Claudio Mezzadri 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

The Spaniards will face either the Czech Republic or Australia in the semifinals. They are aiming to become the first team to win the Hopman Cup twice, after beating John McEnroe and Pam Shriver of the United States in the final three years ago.

Monday's victory reversed a semifinal loss to Switzerland last year. Spain is seeded third this year and Switzerland eighth.

Sanchez vicario made a disastrous start against Maleeva-Fragniere. But recovered to win 12 of the last 15 games as her powerful groundstrokes put her in total command.

The little Spaniard is more willing than in previous years to come to the net — and her aggression paid dividends against a less adventurous opponent.

"It is good that I now have the ability to vary my game if one tactic is not working," she said.

She also beat Maleeva-Fragniere in the semifinals of the 1992 U.S. Open.

Emilio Sanchez was twice within two shots of defeat against Mezzadri, a late replacement for Jakob Hlasek and ranked only 98th in the world.

Mezzadri led 5-4 and was 15-30 on Sanchez's serve in the 10th game of the final set and also led 5-4 in the tiebreaker. Both times Sanchez served superbly to get out of trouble.

"I hope the rest of the year is not like that," Sanchez said. "Those matches are very good for you mentally — if you win them."

The fourth-seeded U.S. team of Martina Navratilova and Mary Joe Fernandez faced the fifth-seeded French combination of Guy Forget and Nathalie Tauziat later Monday in the second quarterfinal.

Tuesday's quarterfinals will pit the top-seeded German pair of Steffi Graf and Michael Stich against Ukraine and the No. 2 seeded Czech Republic team against unseeded Australia.

The tournament is sponsored by Pepsi. It offers a first prize of \$105,000 and continues through Friday night.

It is one of a series of leadup events before the Australian Open Jan. 18-31 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bills complete biggest comeback in NFL history

NEW YORK (AP) — Frank Reich threw five second-half TD passes and Steve Christie kicked a 32-yard field goal 3:06 into overtime to complete the greatest comeback in National Football League history. Giving the Buffalo Bills a 41-38 victory over Houston Oilers in the first round of the playoffs. Without injured quarterback Jim Kelly and running back Thurman Thomas, Reich rallied the Bills from a 35-3 deficit early in the second half at home to reach next week's AFC divisional playoff game against the Pittsburgh Steelers. It was a day for comebacks as Philadelphia rallied from a 20-7 deficit in the third quarter to beat the New Orleans Saints 36-20 and send the Eagles to meet the Dallas Cowboys in the second round of the NFC playoffs.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TANNAN HIRSCH  
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#### HIGH ROAD OR LOW ROAD?

Each vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ K Q J 4

♥ Q 7 2

♦ Q 10 6

♣ J 3 4

EAST  
♠ 10 9 8 2

♥ 4 8 3

♦ J 10 5 4

♣ 4 9 3 2

SOUTH  
♠ A 10 9 8 3

♥ A 8 6 7 5 3

♦ A K 6

♣ A K 7 4

WEST  
♠ 3 4

♥ 5 6

♦ 5 6

♣ 5 6

Opening bid: King of ♠

Bridge is an important part of

offer good play for a grand slam or pair play for 12 tricks. With first or second-round control in every suit, there was no need to check on aces, so South got to the small slam via the direct route.

West led the king of clubs and continued with the queen. The slam looked like it was laydown until declarer drew a trump to the jack and East discarded a club. Now declarer's fourth diamond became a bit of a problem.

The simple way to avoid a loser in the suit was to hope for a 3-3 split, or that the jack would fall double-ton—a 55 percent proposition. Slightly inferior was to cash a high diamond in hand and then finesse the ten, which offered only a 51 percent probability.

The chance was a dummy reversal: that depended on clubs breaking no worse than 6-3—a better than 90 percent prospect. Declarer simply ruffed another club in hand and drew trumps, discarding the fourth diamond on the fourth round of trumps. That gave declarer four trump tricks, two club ruffs and three tricks in each red suit for a total of 12 tricks.

## Maradona and Baresi make New Year red card headlines

LONDON (R) — Seville's troublesome Argentine Diego Maradona and AC Milan super-sweeper Franco Baresi were sent off at the weekend as the Italian and Spanish leagues made a bad-tempered start to the New Year.

Maradona complained he had been victimised after being sent off for porting over two penalties awarded to Tenerife, who beat Seville 3-0.

"I will swear on my daughters that the referee was badly disposed to me throughout the match," Maradona said.

"With this referee you didn't know what was going on ... he never let me speak," the former Argentine captain said.

Compatriot Juan Pizzi converted both penalties but he too received two yellow cards and was sent off just before Maradona.

Seville also lost midfielder Marcos de La Fuente with two bookings.

Seville's coach Carlos Bilardo said: "At 2-0 it turned into a real shambles. Diego was sent off and I told my lads to calm down because I could see a whole chain of expulsions ahead and that would have been damaging."

Real Madrid's late goals, which gave them a 3-0 victory over Osasuna despite a lacklustre performance, changed the mood of an angry crowd, who spent the first half whistling.

The victory kept them in third place, two points adrift of arch-rivals Barcelona and three behind leaders Deportivo Coruna.

Barcelona beat Celta 2-0, while Deportivo galloped to a 3-0 win over Espanol with a hat-trick from Brazilian Jose Beбето.

Baresi's dismissal in the fifth minute of their 1-0 away win over AS Roma made little difference to the high-flying Italian champions, who established a League record of seven away wins in a row and have gone 49 League games without defeat.

The win leaves them eight points clear of second-placed city rivals Internazionale.

Dutchman Ruud Gullit was hero of the day for Milan, scoring their goal with a brilliantly struck 29th minute volley.

Gullit praised the team's ability to adapt their game and fill the void left by Baresi, dismissed for bringing down an opponent in a goalkeeping position.

"This was a win that was worked out, thought out and studied. We have shown that in soccer, at certain levels, you have to be able to everything," said Gullit.

In Florence, Fiorentina's 1-0 home defeat by Atalanta was enough to precipitate the sacking of coach Gigi Radice.

Following a dispute in the dressing room between Radice and Vittorio Cecchi Gori, son of the Fiorentina president Mario Cecchi Gori, the club issued a brief statement confirming Radice's dismissal. He had been with Fiorentina since mid-way through last season.

Giovanni Trapattoni of Juventus was another coach under pressure following an unimpressive 2-2 home draw with Parma in which Juventus twice came from behind to equalise. Unhappy Juventus fans noisily voiced their criticism.

Bad temper spilled into the Portuguese League too, with four players sent off during Benfica's 1-1 draw at Lisbon rivals Belenenses.

Belenenses winger Jose Tairu was first off in the 54th minute after a foul on a Benfica defender. The visitors were reduced to 10 some 20 minutes later when midfielder Paulo Sousa was dismissed following a foul on Adalberto Soares.

Benfica substitute Antonio Pacheco was then shown a red



Argentinian soccer star Diego Maradona (right) in action for his Spanish team Seville (AFP photo)

card for a serious foul, swiftly followed by Belenenses's guto for a second bookable offence.

#### AEK remain undefeated

Defending champion and league-leader AEK of Athens Sunday clinched a narrow 1-0 victory at home over Edessaikos to remain undefeated after 16 rounds in the Greek First Division Soccer League.

In other major games, Olympiakos of Piraeus beat Corinthos 3-1 away to maintain a firm hold on second place and Panathinaikos of Athens defeated Doxa 3-0 in the northern town of Drama.

## Graf makes adjustments to her game; Novotna aims for career breakthrough

PERTH (AP) — Steffi Graf has won 69 career singles titles and is the current Wimbledon champion. Monica Seles, however, is firmly in charge as world No. 1 and that means Graf has to change her game.

For Jana Novotna, it's time. The athletic Czech player is tired of being near the top in women's tennis.

Novotna enters her eighth year on the women's tour still seeking her first Grand Slam title. Despite being a regular in the quarter and semifinals of the sport's biggest events — the 24-year-old still has to make a major breakthrough.

She came closest in 1991, when she was beaten by Monica Seles in the Australian Open final.

Graf said Monday that she and coach Heinz Guntenthart had been working on a variety of adjustments to her strokes.

"Technically, there are some changes to my game," she said. "Heinz had some new ideas, some specific things I needed to look at."

Graf wants to work the ball down the lines more and to move into the net more than she has throughout a career built on baseline supremacy.

"I also want to change the pace and direction of some of my serves — and the same with my backhand," she said Monday while preparing for the season-opening Hopman Cup, in which she is partnering Michael Stich.

"I want to translate practice into matches — after that the results will come."

Graf had to pull out of last year's Hopman Cup with a rubella virus that eventually forced her out of the Australian Open and sidelined her for almost three months.

At 23, the German has won each of the Grand Slam championships at least twice and has nothing left to achieve in terms of titles.

"But my motivation is still strong. I'm working very hard," she said.

Graf says regaining her No. 1 spot from Seles is not her priority. She denies setting specific goals.

"It would be great, but I'm looking at it at the moment," she said of the No. 1 spot.

"I've won everything that's possible — but I still need to satisfy myself."

Graf said the Hopman Cup teams event, in which she and Stich will face the Ukraine team of Andrei Medvedev and Natalia Medvedeva in the quarterfinals Tuesday, is the ideal way to start a New Year and prepare for the Australian Open.

"It is a perfect way to start practicing. You get the best possible preparation and the matches that you need," she said.

Ironically, the Hopman Cup is one of the few titles to elude her. She and Patrick Kuhn were beaten in the semifinals four

years ago and the illness robbed her and Boris Becker of the chance of victory last year.

She and Stich practiced together at the U.S. Open last year but never have played mixed doubles together.

"I like Michael and I'm sure we'll have a lot of fun," she said.

Novotna looks fitter this year than ever before and has been moving particularly well in practice for the Hopman Cup — her first tournament of the season.

Novotna finished 1992 strongly after being sidelined following an operation on a cyst on her left knee, and is currently ranked 10th, seven places down from her career high.

The powerful right-hander has been working with coach Hana Mandlikova throughout the Christmas holiday period in a bid to have an advantage over her rivals in the Australian Open, which starts Jan. 18 in Melbourne.

"It is always the best time of the year to work hard and be ready," she said.

Novotna once said she did not feel she belonged in the top 10. Now she has put together five career singles titles and 37 doubles titles and says she's ready to move "to the next level."

Novotna has beaten every top 10 player during her career, with the exception of Martina Navratilova.

"I think I will have opportunities this year, but I don't like to

talk about it too much because then maybe it won't happen," she said.

Many tennis insiders believe Novotna has to toughen up mentally.

"There is no doubt that Novotna has the ability to win major titles," says Wendy Turnbull, a former top 10 player and now media commentator.

"She has tremendous natural ability, but she has to realise she is on her own out there and to learn to solve her problems on court, instead of looking to her coach every time she has a difficult moment."

"She is a tremendous athlete, though, and her volleying ability is second to none."

Novotna herself realises she has to develop a killer instinct. "Your opponent is your enemy," she said in a recent interview. "If you are too nice, you can never make it to the top."

Novotna and Petr Korda representing the new Czech Republic in the Hopman Cup teams event following the split with Slovakia.

"There have been so many changes," Novotna said. "It is exciting playing for the first time for the new republic. I don't think I will feel that different — but I'm definitely proud."

Novotna and Korda face the Australian pair of Wally Masur and Nicole Provis in the Hopman Cup quarterfinals Tuesday.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 5, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You have a day when you can purchase articles of beauty that have to do with your desire to add art, colour and culture to your surroundings. Let your romantic interest know you enjoy their companionship.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get in touch with whatever partners or associates you have vital contact with and come to a new understanding of your goals and methods for success.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) A day to get into the activities which you most enjoy for you can produce excellent results by applying your own skills and standpoints.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A day to forget worries and anxieties and get into the pleasures and amusements that appeal most to you with your most congenial companions.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A fine day to add whatever will bring more charm and attractiveness to your own residence and so there is more harmony with your household.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Your best activity is now in the outside tasks and with usual companions so get off with them and do the things mutually enjoyable to all concerned.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Think about the little things you can do to make your posses-

one more valuable and then make the effort to do so by your good taste, judgment.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Your own charm and high needs to have a booster moving on spare moments this day to do what you can to effectuate this month while purpose.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A day for you to spend as much time as possible imagining whatever is mysterious or difficult for you to understand and you can get the right answers.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You would be wise to do or say nothing today or tonight that could upset one of whom you are fond and who has been a good friend to you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If you go out in the world of action today be sure that you do nothing that can in any way lessen your name and standing in your community.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You are on the verge of some new and interesting undertakings but if they are to be successful it is necessary you be better informed about them.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your hunches are way out of line today to rely more upon your considerate judgment than upon your instincts now tell you and you avoid a mistake.

### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

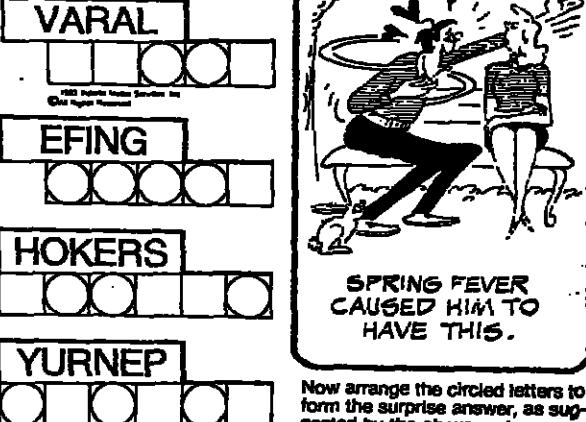


"I'm making up better Monopoly cards — Get Out of Chores, Go Directly to Sofa, Collect 10 Kisses..."

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henry Arnold

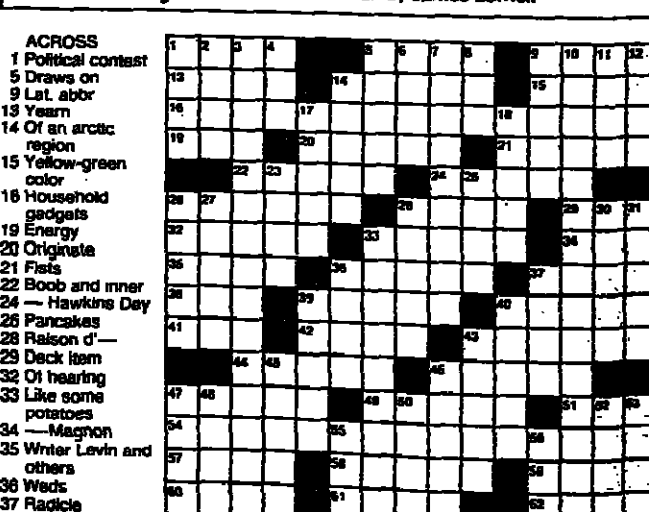
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: V A R A L E F I N G H O K E R S Y U R N E P

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEIGE FACET BECALM HIATUS  
Answer: What he had to do when he neglected his piano lesson—FACE THE MUSIC

### THE Daily Crossword by James Barriot



**ACROSS**  
1 Potlatch contest  
5 Drawn out  
9 Lat. labor  
13 Yeast  
14 Of an arctic region  
15 Yellow-green color  
16 Household gadget  
19 Energy  
20 Originate  
21 Flies  
22 Boob and merr  
24 — Hawkins Day  
26 Parables  
28 Reason d'  
29 Deck item  
32 Of hearing  
33 Like some post  
34 — Magnon  
35 Winter Levin and others  
36 Weds  
37 Radicle  
38 Operated  
39 Scrambling ridiculous  
40 Throb  
41 Hoary  
42 — Dean  
43 Fur bearers  
44 There!  
46 — Groves in Brooklyn  
47 Mountain ridge  
48 Fruits  
51 Hundredweight abbr.  
54 Certain artist  
57 — dot  
58 Delay  
59 Ocelot  
60 Crystal gazer  
61 Erie or Goner  
62 Dilettante  
6 Range in Europe  
7 Holy land  
8 — Lanka  
9 Sordid  
10 Railroad employee  
11 Toward shelter  
12 Arithmetic word  
14 Redwoods  
17 Slicker  
18 Did sums  
23 Arrow poison  
25 War deity  
26 Multitask's city  
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28 Evergreen  
30 Notched, said of leaves  
31 Musical sounds  
33 Sulfides  
36 Impression  
37 Rustic  
39 Ad circulator  
40 Zoroastrian  
43 Flute  
45 Aquatic mammal  
46 Generous  
47 Serus of bees  
48 Lasso  
50 Type type: abbr.  
52 Traveled  
53 Canasta card  
55 Snake  
56 Sports org.



## Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Today Close 4/1/1993	New York Close 31/12/1992
Sterling Pound	1.5602	1.5185
Deutsche Mark	1.6323	1.6204
Swiss Franc	1.4748	1.4665
French Franc	5.5609	5.5275
Japanese Yen	124.90	124.54
European Currency Unit	1.1946	1.2075

USD Per JGD  
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## World Bank finds Swiss incomes to be highest

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Swiss are the world's top wage earners and Japanese babies born in 1991 can expect to live the longest, according to the World Bank.

The bank's 25th annual report says Swiss residents earned the equivalent of \$33,510 a year in 1991, compared with \$22,560 for U.S. residents.

The United States ranked 10th in per capita earnings, behind Switzerland, Luxembourg, Japan, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, West Germany and Iceland.

The bank calculates its wealth comparisons by taking a country's entire gross domestic product and dividing by the population — rather than attempting to break it down by average wages or some other narrow measure.

The report published last week, covers 1991; some statistical comparisons use data from earlier years.

As to life expectancy, babies born in Japan in 1991 could expect to live to age 79, compared

with 76 for babies born in the United States, which ranked 11th in the longevity measure.

Americans consumed an average of 3,671 calories per day — behind an average consumption of 3,825 calories in Greece and 3,778 in Ireland. Ethiopia was last at 1,667 calories.

The latest report puts a new emphasis on people and the environment. The World Bank, founded at the end of World War II, has 172 member countries. Its publication includes statistics on 200 nations.

The poorest countries are in Africa, where the average yearly income — again measured with total gross domestic product — is \$70 in Mozambique, \$100 in mainland Tanzania and \$120 in Ethiopia.

Overall, the report lists 56 areas, from Argentina to Zambia, where the average income declined between 1980 and 1991.

Illiteracy runs high among men and women of all ages in Africa — 70 per cent in Chad, 61 per

## GCC states earn \$75.2b from oil exports in 1992

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Oil revenues of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states reached \$75.2 billion in 1992, a seven per cent increase over the previous year's \$70.5 billion, the Abu Dhabi-based Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) said in a report Sunday.

The EIB report attributed the increase in the total GCC oil income mainly to Kuwait's rising earnings which jumped three-fold to \$5.8 billion in 1992 from \$1.4 billion the previous year.

Revenues of Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, went up by three per cent, from \$47.5 billion in 1991 to \$49 billion in 1992.

However, oil revenues of the four other GCC member states — United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — have dropped.

The report estimated UAE re-

venues at \$13.4 billion, down from \$14 billion; Qatar's at \$2.2 billion, down from \$2.5 billion; Oman's at \$4 billion, down from \$4.2 billion; and Bahrain's at \$820 million, down from \$900 million.

Kuwait's oil industry was badly damaged by the Iraqi forces during a seven-month occupation that ended in February 1991. At the start of 1992, Kuwait's production was estimated at less than 500,000 barrels a day, but by the end of the year it had climbed to near the prewar level of 1.5 million barrels per day.

The bank report said the latest accord of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which restrained the group's overall output to 24.582 million barrels a day, should contribute to the stability of the oil market, provided all member states adhered to their assigned

quotas.

The EIB predicted the oil market will be supported by anticipations of higher demand, which it said will rise to 68 million barrels per day in 1993, compared to 67.1 million barrels per day in 1992 and 1991 respectively.

However, the report said the oil market was currently passing through what it described as a "fragile balance," urging OPEC countries to stick to their OPEC quotas in order to avoid a downslide on oil prices.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE are ranking members of OPEC.

Oil revenues are the backbone of the economies of Oman and Bahrain and adhere to OPEC production and pricing policies. But they are not members of the group.

## Higher volume of gold trading brightens Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The year 1992 has been a record one for the tiny sheikhdom of Dubai, the gold capital of the Middle East and a vital transshipment point in the global trading network for the yellow metal, officials said Sunday.

According to the statistics of the World Gold Council, a voluntary, non-profit association of gold producing companies from 14 countries headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, Dubai's gold imports for 1992 were expected to be in the range of 300 tonnes, 80 per cent higher than the preceding year.

"This is the highest import figure for gold into Dubai so far, securing it a place among the top five importing markets in the world," Andre Bisang, director, Middle East and Turkey told the Associated Press.

Dubai's 1992 gold imports are representative of a general trend in the emerging gold markets, said Mr. Bisang, linking it to deregulation and opening up of markets in the Indian subcontinent, China, Iran, Turkey, Taiwan and Thailand.

"In 1991, the Western World mined 1,781.6 tonnes of gold; while China, countries of the former Soviet Union, North Korea and Mongolia produced another 375 tonnes," he said.

"We have a situation where sup-

ply has stabilised at the same level this year, while demand for gold by the jewellery industry is expected to have exceeded this total supply by at least 200 tonnes by the year end." Final statistics have yet to be lined up.

Among the emerging markets, India and China are the two countries with a voracious appetite for the yellow metal.

Eighty per cent of India's official gold imports and perhaps a larger percentage of unofficial imports into that country of 830 million and with an annual gold market of 400 tonnes are, according to trade sources, transacted through Dubai.

Indians form the bulk of an expatriate population that makes up about three-fourths of the two million population of the United Arab Emirates, which groups Dubai with Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah.

As a result of a feeble buying power and a difference of approximately \$20 higher price than the internationally prevailing price on 10 grammes of gold, per capita purchase of gold in India is lower than half a gramme per year.

On the other hand, a resident

Indian in the Gulf with substantially higher income tends to buy an average of 30 grammes per year. This highlights the tremendous growth potential in the Indian market and the consequent benefits for Dubai as its major supply point.

**China Town Management**  
apologizes for the inconvenience caused to Mr. Fahmi Salim Naser on 31st December 1992. We would like to inform our respected guests that our telephone numbers are as follows:  
674111 - 674295  
(ext: 6338) - 674112

## Japanese workers abandon house-buying hopes

TOKYO (R) — Nine out of 10 Japanese workers believe they will not earn enough to buy a house by the turn of the Century, according to a survey released Sunday.

A survey of 33,500 workers by Japan's biggest trade union grouping showed 88 per cent doubted their pay would increase enough to allow them to buy a house by the year 2000.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government pledged in a five-year plan starting from next April to bring the cost of a home within the reach of urban workers.

According to a recent report by Mitsubishi Bank, a home of about 75 square metres within 30-50 kilometres of Tokyo costs about \$2 million (yen \$419,000), 7.9 times the average annual income of a 30 to 39-year-old businessman, which is about 6.6 million yen (\$53,200).

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2739/44	Canadian dollar	1.6320/30
	1.6320/30	Deutschemarks	1.8320/40
	1.8320/40	Dutch guilders	1.4730/35
	1.4730/35	Swiss francs	33.51/55
	33.51/55	Belgian francs	5.580/85
	5.580/85	French francs	1497/1504
	1497/1504	Italian lire	124.86/91
	124.86/91	Japanese yen	7.1295/395
	7.1295/395	Swedish crowns	6.9700/870
	6.9700/870	Norwegian crowns	6.3300/400
	6.3300/400	Danish crowns	1.5038/48
One sterling	1.5038/48		
One ounce of gold	\$329.40/\$329.90		

## JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR A PHYSIOTHERAPIST

To work in community programmes for the disabled in different places in the country, under the auspices of the Hussein Society for the Physically Disabled in cooperation with the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf — Salt.

If you would like to work and have some experience with handicapped children, if you are committed to work with families and communities and if you don't mind driving out to different areas in the country, please write us. Especially women are encouraged to apply.

Please send your C.V. within one week to:  
The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf  
P.O. Box 15, Salt.

## WIR SUCHEN

Deutsch und englischsprachige Dame fuer alle anfallenden Sekretariatsarbeiten.  
Schreibmaschinenkenntnisse erwuenscht.  
Weitere Informationen erhalten Sie bei PAN EAST TOURS telefon: 698142.

## FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Attached, one ground floor, consists of 2 bedrooms, sitting room, L-shaped living & dining rooms, with porch. Central heating and telephone. Located near the university bridge, on a hill.  
Please call 671860 from 9:00 a.m. till 7:00 p.m.

## NEEDED

For a trading and industrial company an experienced office female secretary with the following qualifications:  
★ Diploma in secretariat or equivalent with minimum of three years of experience.  
★ Commands English language and typing Arabic and English.  
★ Experience in translation and commercial correspondence.  
★ Experience in using office equipment especially computer.  
Those interested should send their C.V. to:  
P.O. Box 961575  
Sport City — Amman — Jordan  
★ Latest 15-1-1993 ★ Salary accordance to experience

## Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 677420  
**LAMBADA "2"**  
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
Next Show  
**Body Guard**

## Nabli Al Mashini Theatre

Tel: 675571  
Tuesday January 5th marks the opening of the new theatre season presenting:  
**Pandemonium (Ta'a wa Qaimah)**  
Daily at 8:30 p.m.  
Tickets office open all day

## Cinema PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144  
**BLACK RAIN**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
Thu.-Fri. special show for children at 11:00 a.m.  
**The Fox And The Hound**

## AHLAN THEATRE

Tel: 625155  
"Welcome New World Order"  
Play will reappear in a new presentation on Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday Happy New Year

## CENTRO CULTURAL ESPAÑOL

المركز الثقافي الإسباني  
**Announces**  
Three month winter course for spanish language.  
Registration starts for all levels on 26-Dec-1992.  
The course will start on 4-Jan-1993, Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays.  
Duration of the class is an hour and a half for all levels.  
For more information call 610858, 624049.  
Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabbal Amman, 3rd circle, open daily except for Fridays and Sundays from 9-12 and from 3-7 p.m.

## وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان

## دائرة المقادرات الحكومية

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

## Ministry of Public Works & Housing

## Government Tenders Directorate

## General Tenders announcement.

## Invitation to Tenders No. (3, 4/93)

Local contractors classified in field of buildings classification third or fourth and international contractors in the same field and classification who are interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the Government Tender Directorate at Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 3/1/1993 and in accordance with the following terms.

Tenders No.	Description
(3/93)	1. Construction of Um-Butma Comp. girls school area (1600)m <sup>2</sup> .
(4/93)	1. Construction of Al Jiza Comp. girls school area (1600)m <sup>2</sup> .

a. The project partially financed by the sector loan.  
b. Work load will be considered in awarding.  
c. Tenders price (100) JD for each tender set (non-refundable).  
d. Last date for purchase of tender document on January 26th, 1993.  
e. Offers shall be submitted to the Government Directorate before 13:30 local time on Thursday 2nd of February 1993.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee  
Government Tenders Directorate  
Eng. Basheer Al Jaghbeer



# Bosnian peace talks hit serious trouble

GENEVA (Agencies) — An international conference on peace for war-torn Bosnia ran into serious trouble Monday as the Muslim-led government and rebel Serbs differed strongly over the future shape of the Balkan state.

"We are an inch away from break-up," said a Serb delegation source. Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic told a news conference the Serbs were refusing to accept key points in proposed political and military accords.

Conference spokesman Fred Eckhardt told reporters the talks, launched Saturday in a bid to prevent escalation of the conflict and possible outside intervention, were "at something of a crunch-point."

As international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen worked to keep the parley on track, one conference official closely involved in the negotiations denied it was close to collapse.

"There are major questions unresolved. They have to be decided," the official said. "This is definitely a cliff-hanger. It is a make-or-break day," said another senior conference source.

Mr. Eckhardt told a news briefing there were "fundamental differences" between the Serbs and Muslims on power-sharing between central government and autonomous provinces under a peace plan proposed Mr. Vance and Lord Owen.

He said the views of the two sides were incompatible. Their leaders met in Geneva over the weekend in the first face-to-face talks since war erupted in the former Yugoslav republic in March and sparked a major refugee crisis.

The Serbs have made clear they seek a wide degree of sovereignty for the area they would control in a new-style Bosnia, which the mediators say should be made up of 10 regions shopped on ethnic and economic lines.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, in proposals the Bosnian president says he has accepted as a compromise, have offered a decentralised state with most governmental functions carried out by its provinces.

Mr. Izetbegovic issued an ultimatum to the Serbs to agree to an independent sovereign state and to put their heavy weapons under U.N. control or the war would continue.

He said there would be no point in the Bosnian government continuing peace talks if the Serbs did not agree to these key points.

"We will not give up on these two principles," Mr. Izetbegovic said. "We think these two requests are just requests. If the conference fails it will be because they (the Serbs) didn't accept it. In that case it will be a sign that they want the war to continue in Bosnia."

Hajrudin Somun, Mr. Izetbegovic's chief political counsellor, said the international community was trying to impose peace without regard to the crimes committed in nine months of war.

"They imposed the war and now they are trying to impose on us the peace," Mr. Somun told reporters.

"It's too early for peace," he added.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, the co-chairmen of the Geneva conference on former Yugoslavia, have proposed a settlement under which Bosnia would be cut up into 10 autonomous provinces under an ethnically-balanced central government.



Muslim refugees — mostly Bosnian — wait at a camp in the Croatian capital of Zagreb for meals (AFP photo)

## Kohl under fire over Moellemann

BONN (R) — The German press slammed Chancellor Helmut Kohl Monday over his disgraced economics minister, saying he should never have appointed Juergen Moellemann to the post and waited too long to get rid of him.

Mr. Moellemann, 47, who Berlin's Tagesspiegel daily said "had no qualifications except burning ambition," resigned Sunday after being caught in a scandal over influence-peddling for his cousin.

Editorials dismissed him as a publicity-hungry lightweight whose lack of leadership reflected Mr. Kohl's own problems finding policies that can avert recession in Western Germany and rebuild the ex-communist East.

"Moellemann's resignation frees the republic from a nightmare," wrote Die Welt.

The conservative daily said Mr. Moellemann's attempt to ride out the storm over his behaviour led to fears of corruption within Mr. Kohl's 10-year-old coalition and added: "Kohl should have hauled him on to the carpet before Christmas."

The liberal Sueddeutsche Zeitung in Munich argued: "The harmless Moellemann affair throws a stark spotlight on the decline of Kohl's cabinet."

"Probably no post-war German cabinet has been so marked by erosion," the paper said of Mr. Kohl's centre-right cabinet, which five ministers have quit in the past nine months.

On Mr. Moellemann the newspaper commented: "He was unsuited for the job and the fact he got it against all reason meant the economics ministry soon became irrelevant."

ZDF Television mocked Mr. Moellemann's claim that he had not lied when he first blamed an aide for letters he had signed promoting his cousin's security system for supermarket trolleys.

"The art of speaking an untruth without telling a lie" was the title of its special programme on the resignation.

"Can anyone be surprised that voters are fed up with these politicians?" it asked in a commentary.

Mr. Moellemann's Liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP),

which has already staked its claim to keep the economics ministry in Mr. Kohl's cabinet reshuffle plan for later this month, will meet Friday to discuss possible successors.

FDP sources said Guenter Rexrodt, a banker who came a strong second to Mr. Moellemann in the party vote when the liberals last chose a new economics minister in 1991, was the favourite.

Apart from his qualifications, Mr. Rexrodt has the advantage of strong experience in eastern Germany as a board member of the Treuhand agency privatising former communist industry.

Reflecting the tension between himself and the man who was officially his vice-chancellor, Mr. Kohl accepted Mr. Moellemann's resignation with thanks but conspicuously without regret.

Mr. Moellemann also announced he would not run for the post of FDP chairman this year, leaving the field open for his rival Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel to take over the reins of the small party he joined only two years ago.

## Moi starts new term

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Daniel Arap Moi began a fresh five-year term as president of Kenya Monday after the electoral commission declared he had beaten a fragmented opposition in the first multi-party elections in 26 years.

Mr. Moi, 68, at the swearing-in ceremony in State House, his official residence in the capital, said he would try to heal the wounds opened by bitter and sometimes violent campaigning.

"I shall serve all Kenyans, and I mean all Kenyans, with dedication and humility for the development and prosperity of our people," he said.

Party colleagues who lost parliament seats joined Mr. Moi in the ceremony, dancing up and down with one finger, their party emblem, pointed upwards. A military band played and Mr. Moi inspected a guard of honour.

But Mr. Moi did not invite opposition leaders to the function, an omission which could set back the task of reconciliation.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) revised the vote for Mr. Moi in last Tuesday's elections to 1,964,534 against 1,402,069 for his closest rival, Kenneth Matiba of Ford-Asili.

Mwai Kibaki of the Democratic Party of Kenya won 1,012,569 votes and veteran opposition figurehead Jaramogi Oginga Odinga of Ford-Kenya took 914,550.

The polls were criticised locally and by international observers as riddled with irregularities, but were held generally to have been representative of the vote.

Mr. Moi, who ruled this East African nation in an often authoritarian manner since the 1978 death of Kenya's first president, Jomo Kenyatta.

The general elections, in which voters chose Mr. Kenya's president, 188 parliamentarians and hundreds of civic officials, came a year after Mr. Moi reluctantly embraced multiparty politics under intense domestic and international pressure.

## Column 18000

Norwegian poised to be first to reach South Pole alone

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian explorer is poised to become the first person to walk alone to the South Pole this week with only a few kilometres left of a bone-chilling trek across Antarctica, his spokesman said Monday. Erling Kagge was 81.5 kilometres from the pole Monday after covering 1,228.5 kilometres since setting out on Nov. 17 from Berkner Island on the rim of the ice-bound continent. "He should reach the pole Wednesday night or early on Thursday," said Hans Christian Erlandsen, Mr. Kagge's spokesman. Mr. Kagge, 29, and a lawyer from Oslo, skied with a colleague to the North Pole in 1990. On his solo trek across Antarctica, walking on skis with no outside help, Mr. Kagge started out dragging a sledge of about 125 kilograms — the sledge now weighs about half that amount as he has used up food and fuel aboard. A satellite transmitter has shown Mr. Kagge's location and has allowed him to send messages including "everything okay" and "happy new year." Mr. Kagge would be picked up at the pole by plane.

## BBC gets new director-general

LONDON (R) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) got a new director-general Monday when John Birt, a former commercial television executive, took over one of the most powerful media jobs in the country. Mr. Birt was named director-general designate two years ago and worked in the interim on a review of the role of the BBC, a British institution highly regarded around the world, in an age of keen competition from satellite and other broadcasters. Mr. Birt, who succeeds retiring chief Sir Michael Checkland, has pledged to place an emphasis on the state-owned broadcaster producing "unique, different and original" programmes rather than directly competing with commercial rivals for ratings.

The state radio and television service is received by 90 per cent of British homes and is funded to the tune of almost \$1.5 billion (\$2.2 billion) a year from a compulsory charge on television sets, an arrangement coming up for government review. Mr. Checkland had clashed with BBC governors and others over the future direction of the organisation and announced last year he would retire earlier than planned.

## China decries 'wanton' sperm donors

PEKING (R) — The world's most populous country is being put at risk by "underground" sperm donor brigades who wear themselves out providing low-quality seed for artificial insemination and by unscrupulous sperm banks that mislead potential recipients, an official newspaper said. Sunday's edition of the Yangcheng Evening News denounced "low-quality professional donors (who) wantonly donate and excessively donate, leading to no end of bad consequences." And it said some sperm banks have collected seed from only one donor, spawning dozens of artificially inseminated babies who are actually related to one another.

## FT turns white

LONDON (R) — Britain's Financial Times celebrated 100 years of publication on its trademark pink paper Monday by turning white for a special centenary edition. The newspaper, a bible of British business, changed to pink newsprint in 1893 to distinguish itself from other newspapers. "To mark the anniversary, the newspaper appears today dressed all in white," the paper said in an editorial. An anniversary supplement included a full-size reproduction of a 1893 edition and a snapshot of financial life at the time.

## Trees at root of Philippine woes

MANILA (R) — While expressing personal scepticism, President Fidel Ramos said Sunday he would look into assertions that three misplaced trees and symbols on the presidential seal and banknotes were causing Filipino misfortunes. He was said during a television interview that according to Chinese "Feng Shui," the three huge trees in front of the Malacanang presidential palace blocked the flow of cosmic energy and should be felled. The geomancers also said a sea-fan in the presidential symbol had an inauspicious crooked tail, and they noted that the latest 500-peso bill showed 12 stars, 13 people and the number 500 13 times.

## Sihanouk ends cooperation with U.N. in Cambodia peace process

PEKING (AP) — Cambodian reconciliation leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Monday he was ending his cooperation with the United Nations peacekeeping mission and the Phnom Penh government because of continued politically motivated violence in his country.

"In light of the extreme gravity and persistent continuation of the crimes perpetrated against Funticep, I am obliged to cease to cooperate with United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) and the administration of the state of Cambodia," Prince Sihanouk said in a letter Monday to UNTAC head Yasushi Akashi.

Funticep is the political party of Prince Sihanouk's son, Ranariddh, who is a member of the Supreme National Council set up under a peace agreement to end Cambodia's 13 years of civil war.

Prince Sihanouk is chairman of that body, formed by leaders of the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government and the three guerrilla factions that were battling it. The council was set up to work with the U.N. peacekeeping operation.

If the mercenary prince carries out his decision, it would seriously damage the Cambodian peace process. He is widely perceived by Cambodians and the international community as the only person able to unite the divided nation.

The peace agreement already has been violated by the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, who refuse to disarm and have attacked U.N. personnel.

Prince Sihanouk said he would continue "strictly personal" cooperation with Mr. Akashi and the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government.

Prince Sihanouk's office in Peking said Monday that Mr. Akashi planned to come to China

to meet with the prince Friday, but could not say what the two would discuss.

Prince Sihanouk has a home in Peking and is being treated by Chinese doctors for heart, liver and lung ailments.

The prince had threatened in mid-December to stop working with UNTAC because of the political violence, saying the U.N. group was "not capable of setting up true democracy and peace" in his country.

In a Sunday letter to Mr. Akashi, made public Monday, Prince Sihanouk asked, "How could democratic elections worthy of that name take place within certain legality if Cambodia... again becomes a country without trust and law?"

Under the Paris peace agreement signed by the four factions, the U.N. is to guide the administration of the country and stabilise the political atmosphere in preparation for a general election in May 1993.

But Prince Sihanouk's letters, which were accompanied by accounts of violent "premeditated acts by a rival political organisation," said that at least six people have died in attacks against his offices since Dec. 31.

"I rely on your excellency and the UNTAC to take more energetic measures and more resolute actions to put an end, if possible, to such shameful and criminal acts," he said.

Prince Sihanouk did not name the "rival political organisation," but he likely meant the Phnom Penh government, which U.N. investigators say has been behind some attacks against the prince's group.

Logging ban violated

Logs are apparently still crossing the border from Cambodia into Thailand despite a ban on

the trade, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping operation said Monday.

"I understand there is some illegal movement across the border," spokesman Eric Falt told reporters.

The ban on exports of whole logs, which went into effect Jan. 1, was imposed by Cambodian national reconciliation leaders to prevent depletion of the country's forests. If successful, it would deprive the radical communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas of a huge source of revenue.

In Bangkok, Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krainiksh said he had not yet received any official reports of the ban being violated but did notice a foreign news agency report that described hundreds of logs still crossing into Thailand from northern Cambodia.

"If there is any abuse, we will try to correct it," he said.

The four Cambodian factions that control areas of the country have the primary responsibility for enforcing the ban, and U.N. officials at the borders are only watching to see if they are doing so, Mr. Falt said.

Mr. Falt said U.N. officials were issuing written warnings to drivers of vehicles violating the ban, but they "do not have the power to stand in front of a truck at the border and make it stop."

U.N. peacekeepers are also hampered because they have not been allowed to set up checkpoints in border areas controlled by the Khmer Rouge, which has refused to cooperate with the U.N. operation's attempt to guide the country out of civil war.

The Khmer Rouge makes huge profits from fees collected from Thai businessmen for rights to log in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas in the west and north bordering Thailand.

## Eastwood's 'Unforgiven' wins film critics' awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Clint Eastwood's "Unforgiven," a bleak Western about frontier justice, was chosen best picture of 1992 on Sunday by film critics from 25 national publications.

The film, which Mr. Eastwood directed and starred in, also won the prizes for best director, best screenplay and best supporting actor from the National Society of Film Critics.

Of the society's 35 member critics from major newspapers and magazines, 25 were present to vote for the annual awards at the Algonquin Hotel.

The critics named Irish director Neil Jordan's film "The Crying Game" as runner-up for best picture, followed by Robert Altman's "The Player."

Mr. Eastwood was voted best director for "Unforgiven," followed by Mr. Altman and Mr. Jordan for second and third place, respectively.

The Chinese film "Raise the Red Lantern," director Zhang Yimou's study of marital repression in pre-revolution China, was named best foreign language film. Second in that category was the Finnish film "The Match Factory Girl," directed by

Aki Kaurismaki.

Other awards: — Best screenplay: David Webb Peoples for "Unforgiven." Runner-up: Mr. Jordan for "The Crying Game."

— Best actor: Stephen Rea as the IRA soldier in "The Crying Game." Runner-up: Mr. Eastwood in "Unforgiven."

— Best actress: Emma Thompson as a woman torn by class prejudice in the British film "Howards End." Runner-up: Susan Sarandon in "Light Sleeper" and "Lorenzo's Oil."

— Best supporting actor: Gene Hackman as the genial but sadistic sheriff in "Unforgiven." Runner-up: Jaye Davidson in "The Crying Game."

— Best supporting actress: Judy Davis as a distraught woman separated from her husband in Woody Allen's "Husbands and Wives." Runner-up: Miranda Richardson in "The Crying Game." "Enchanted April" and "Damage."

— Best documentary: Director Barbara Kopple's "American Dream," which follows a strike at a Hormel plant in Minnesota. Runner-up: Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky's "Brother's Keeper," which documents the



Clint Eastwood

trial in upstate New York of an illiterate man accused of murdering his brother.

— Best cinematography: "Raise the Red Lantern," with Zhao Fei as the director of photography. Runner-up: "Laws of Gravity," director Nick Gomez' film about machismo in working-class Brooklyn, with Jean de Segonzac as the director of photography.

The critics also cited Michael Almereyda's "Another Girl Another Planet" for "expanding the possibilities of experimental film making, including the use of a pixilation toy camcorder," a \$40 device.

The 27th annual awards were dedicated to the memory of Stephen Harvey, film critic of Inquiry magazine and curator for the Museum of Modern Art Department of Film, who died of AIDS Friday.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### France opens schools to homeless

PARIS (R) — French Education Minister Jack Lang ordered schools and universities Monday to shelter the homeless from a week-old cold spell that has killed six people. In Italy, the death toll rose to four as a freak spell of wintry weather continued to grip the country, covering the normally mild south with a thick layer of snow. A 46-year-old man in the eastern town of Nantua was the sixth homeless person to die of exposure in France in a week. A 72-year-old pensioner who lived in a shack with a tarpaulin as a blanket found dead in Brittany Sunday. Temperatures have plunged well below freezing throughout France, reaching minus 15 Celsius (5 Fahrenheit) in some places. Two women and a child died in their blazing home in the northern town of Calais. Firemen said the blaze was apparently caused by a gas leak. Cold weather hampered repair work.

### Death toll from Fiji cyclone rises to 12

SYDNEY (AP) — The death toll from tropical cyclone Kina, which battered Fiji on the weekend, has risen to 12, officials said Monday. Fiji disaster management centre spokesman Moses Sikivou said in a telephone interview most victims drowned in flooded creeks and rivers or rough seas. Five people reported missing at sea had been found, he said. Hospitals and medical clinics around the South Pacific republic treated scores of injuries. Most had been hurt by flying debris whipped up by gales of up to 100 knots which destroyed houses, flattened crops and cut communications and electricity supplies. Hundreds of homes remain flooded, forcing mass evacuations. An airport near the capital Suva has also been flooded, although the country's main airport at Nadi on the west of the main island of Viti Levu is open.

### Carter and Reagan honoured

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan were awarded the nation's first Spark M. Matsunaga medals of peace Sunday by the U.S. Peace Institute for giving hope "to people throughout the world who suffered under tyranny." The award, created by Congress to honour Mr. Matsunaga, a senator from Hawaii who died in 1990 and was a proponent of peace education, carries a \$25,000 stipend. Mr. Carter and Mr. Reagan were selected by the board of directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace, a government institution created by Congress at Mr. Matsunaga's suggestion to promote research, education and training on international peace and conflict resolution.

## Hearings begin tomorrow on Clinton nominees

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Republicans scrutinise their records for hints of trouble, President-elect Bill Clinton's choices for his cabinet will face confirmation hearings almost as quickly as Congress convenes this week.

The new cabinet members cannot be confirmed until after Mr. Clinton is inaugurated Jan. 20. But Senate majority leader George Mitchell is moving to expedite the process in hopes the Senate will be ready to vote soon after the new administration takes office.

"I don't know if there will be any controversy over any of the nominees," Mr. Mitchell said in a telephone interview from Maine last week. "I hope we're going to be able to confirm them soon after the inaugural."

The 103rd Congress formally convenes Tuesday, and Wednesday Commerce Secretary-designate Ron Brown goes before a Senate committee to begin his confirmation process.

Three more cabinet designees have their hearings Thursday — Les Aspin, Mr. Clinton's choice for defence; Federico Pena for

transportation, and Robert Reich for labour.

Others are scheduled to face their first hearings the following week, including Treasury Secretary-designate Lloyd Bentsen, the Texas Democrat whose hearing will be before the Senate Finance Committee he chairs.

The schedule is being set individually by the various committees with jurisdiction.

Although no organised campaign has emerged against any of the choices so far, Sen. Trent Lott, (Republican — Mississippi), is leading GOP efforts to scrutinise their backgrounds and may direct the opposition.

Though Mr. Lott insists he has no such test, some Republicans are considering trying to probe lives in a way they say Democrats did in blocking the late John Tower, President George Bush's initial choice for defence secretary, in 1989.

"He doesn't view his role as a bit man," said Bruce Lott, press secretary to the Mississippi senator.

"Senator Lott believes the president should have a great

deal of leeway in who he chooses, and he's not going to oppose someone just because he disagrees with them. He's looking to be sure they're qualified."

Republicans are expected to question Mr. Brown, the outgoing Democratic national chairman, about his extensive lobbying — including foreign clients — as partner in a Washington powerhouse law firm, Patton, Boggess and Blow.

Among the clients he has represented is the government of Haiti and its former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. Mr. Brown also could face questioning about ties to big corporations and other rich donors who gave huge sums of legal but unregulated donations to the Democratic Party.

"Obviously every nominee should be checked into," Mr. Mitchell said. "But Ron Brown is a very distinguished and able person. I don't anticipate he'll have difficulty being confirmed."

Mr. Brown's spokeswoman, Ginny Terzano, said his lobbying for Haiti took place before he took the party post, and that

"Chairman Brown served his law firm well" while a lobbyist.

"We all hope partisan attacks will not be a centerpiece of the hearings," she said.

Also likely to face Republican grilling is Donna Shalala, the health and human services secretary-designate.

She has been chancellor since 1988 of the University of Wisconsin's flagship campus, where she took on a controversial battle to prohibit harassing speech. She has been attacked by conservatives as championing "political correctness" on campus, their term for overzealous liberalism.

Though the House has no role in the confirmation process, Republican staff aides say they expect Republicans will use the televised house proceedings as a forum to launch attacks on targeted nominees.

Though her appointment is not subject to confirmation, Laura Tyson, Mr. Clinton's designated head of the Council of Economic Advisers, is likely to face partisan criticism for her economic philosophy and writings on Eastern Europe, according to GOP aides.